

RUMORS OF CRONJE SURRENDER

And Relief of Ladysmith Current in Durban, but No Confirmation Has Been Received in London

NEGOTIATING THE CAPE BOERS

Who Are Willing to Lay Down Their Arms—Will Be Offered Lenient Terms—Situation at Paardeberg.

(Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 24.—The dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Thursday, 22nd, made public this afternoon, shows that the position of Cronje, apparently, had not changed for the better or worse up to Thursday, and confirmation of the Durban report announcing Cronje's surrender is eagerly awaited.
At this hour the war office has no news, and it is regarded as a curious fact that the first news of surrender should have come from there.
The arrival of the British supply column at Paardeberg may have given Roberts the opportunity to resume his fierce attack on Cronje's laager, for doubtless he cannot keep up the vigorous cannonade with which he started.
May Starve Them Out.
The long wait may be due to a determination to starve out Gen. Cronje's gallant force.
Other Paardeberg dispatches says the Boer plight is still hopeless, and that Lord Roberts is ready to meet all the reinforcements.
The Cape Boers.
From Gen. Buller there is nothing new, but the retreat of Cronje seems to be having an effect on the Cape Boers, as a dispatch says they have opened negotiations for submission. Gen. Buller is treating with them and, in deference to the wishes of the governor of Cape Colony, is offering lenient terms, and in the meanwhile ceasing offensive operations.
Operations Near Arundel.
A special dispatch from Arundel, under the date of February 23rd, says: "The Boers have formed a strong force seven miles west of here. Gen. Clements has kept up a searching fire on their kopjes. We expect to take their position before sunset."
Boer Reports.
A war bulletin, published in Pretoria on February 22nd, said communication with Gen. Cronje was still open on February 21st, and that reports of heavy fighting occurred east of Gen. Cronje's laager had been received.
Burglers Lose Heavily.
A Sterskroon dispatch of February 23rd says a British refugee from Heidelberg asserts that the Boers have admitted losing 500 men in the assault on Ladysmith on January 6th, and that it was true that Gen. Joubert was no longer in command. He added that some Free Staters were flogged for cowardice after the battle of Belmont.
British Casualties.
The British casualties at Koodersberg Drift on February 7th, and Klip Kraai on February 16th, were 7 officers wounded, 4 men killed and 96 wounded.
BOER PRISONERS.
Ninety-Five Captured Near Paardeberg—No Change in the Situation.
Paardeberg, Feb. 22.—There is little change in the situation. There was intermittent shelling to-day and during the night a large supply column arrived. It is reported 2,000 Boers are operating northwards of this place.
Yesterday evening, after the last gun had been fired, the Shropshires rushed forward 200 yards further towards the

bering up and fleeing eastwards. The glad tidings spread with marvellous rapidity. From all directions mounted and unmounted men hastened to see the relief column. Those remaining hoisted flags, and there was a universal feeling of joy and thankfulness.

EXCITEMENT IN LONDON.

Rumors Current that Cronje Has Surrendered—Where Are the Big Guns?

New York, Feb. 24.—London cables describe the big city as being wrought up to a high state of excitement over the war news from Africa.
On top of the reports describing the tight fix in which Roberts had placed Cronje, came a brief story which added to the excitement. This was to the effect that when Gen. Cronje had found it impossible to longer endure the murderous fire of his opponents he had laid down his arms.
Up to an early hour this morning, however, there was no official confirmation of this news by the British war office. It served, however, to whet the excitement, and the streets of London were thronged with people who rushed to the war office and to the newspaper offices to see if it were true. The military clubs were filled with members all excitedly discussing the rumor.

One point which is not understood in the silence of Cronje's guns. The British batteries are firing at close range, whereas the big guns, which were at Mazerfontein, ought to enable Cronje to make a good defence. Apparently his guns are not with him.
BOER VERSION OF THE FIGHTING IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE.
London, Feb. 23.—Pretoria bulletins give the Boer version of the fighting in the Orange Free State, and mention engagements between Paardeberg and Bloemfontein not hitherto reported. Petrusburg is some 30 miles east of Paardeberg. The bulletins say:
Pretoria, Feb. 21.—At Petrusburg cannon firing commenced at 9 in the morning. A big fight was expected to-day. Dewet telegraphed from Petrusburg that all was quiet excepting several cannon shots and small skirmishes. Yesterday evening the British stormed federal positions as far as Schuur, but were driven back. A message from Gen. Cronje is to the effect that his loss yesterday was 14 killed and wounded.
Pretoria, Feb. 22.—Dewet's loss was nil. Commandant Froneman reports that from Feb. 15th to Feb. 20th he was almost surrounded by British at the Modder River, when with a small number of men he broke through the river. On Sunday there was a heavy fight. The British prepared to lay siege to the Boer laager, with fighting general. We were surrounded by 2,200 British five miles from the chief laager. At night we cut through with the loss of seven dead and sixteen wounded. The loss to the British was heavy. Yesterday we cut our way through to reach Dewet, who was surrounded by 2,200 British three prisoners formerly taken have been forwarded. It is reported that the British were attacking Koodersand yesterday with infantry and lancers, but were driven back.

with the object of stemming the advance of Lord Roberts.

London, Feb. 24.—A Pretoria dispatch to the Daily Telegraph, dated Thursday, says: "Fighting is proceeding in the vicinity of Pieters this morning. Gen. Buller's advance being opposed by big guns and rifle fire."

Big Guns at Work.
London, Feb. 24.—A dispatch to the Daily Chronicle from Chevelay dated 22nd, says: "At dawn Tuesday we found that the Boers had vacated all positions south of the Tugela, and were in positions along the hills midway between Ladysmith and the river, and making a determined stand."

"The Creusote guns were in action. All the British naval and others heavy guns were brought to bear on the new positions, and we believe that this show of Boer strength was only intended to cover retreat."
Yesterday (Wednesday), the Boers were retiring all day. Gen. Buller continues to harass them, compelling the Boers to give way.

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STORM IN OHIO.

(Associated Press.)
Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 24.—One of the fiercest storms of the winter prevailed throughout Ohio to-day. A forty mile gale from the northwest was accompanied by a heavy driving snow, causing big drifts to form everywhere.

COOL S. HUGHES

Appointed Deputy Adjutant-General at Orange River.
Toronto, Feb. 24.—Dr. Ryerson, Canadian Red Cross commissioner in Africa, cabled from Orange River, under the date of February 22nd, that Captain Almond, Lieut. Laurie, Lieut. Barstall and Lieut. Willis, wounded in Sunday's battle, are convalescent. He adds that Lieut. Col. Sam Hughes has been appointed deputy adjutant-general at Orange River.

Foreign Attaches.

Lorenzo Marquez, Feb. 23.—The French steamer Girard arrived here bringing the American and French military attaches, bound for the Boer camp. She also had on board 150 heterogeneous passengers, including 18 Montenegrins in their national costume, all bound for the Transvaal.
Proposed Naval Reserve.
London, Feb. 24.—Negotiations, it is said, are in progress for the formation of a naval reserve in Canada. The difficulty created by the requirements of six months' teaching in a man of war, being one of the conditions of service in the United Kingdom, it is thought will be overcome.

London, Feb. 24.—In the House of Commons at 12.30 this morning Mr. Balfour announced that no further news regarding General Cronje had been received by the government. He had sent to the war office at that hour and had been assured that nothing had come to hand there.
General Cronje, therefore, is unbeaten still. No other construction can be placed upon the three days' silence of Lord Roberts.

Methuen at Kimberley.

Kimberley, Feb. 22.—Lord Methuen arrived on Tuesday. He will act as administrator of Kimberley district, extending southward to Orange River. Col. Kekewich will remain in command of the local forces.
The issue of siege soup ceases to-day. There are 74 Boer prisoners here.
Flight of Boers.
Chebyley, Thursday, Feb. 22.—The main body of Boers has fled, evidently

London is Relieved

News From Africa Disperses the Gloom Which Has Clouded the Metropolis.

Lord Roberts of Kandahar is the Hero of the Hour.

(Associated Press.)

London, Feb. 24.—The fierce fighting that has made the week memorable in the history of Great Britain has, in spite of the heavy casualties that accompanied it, acted as an exhilarating tonic upon the nation. Hand in hand with the relief of Kimberley and the daily expected relief of Ladysmith, has come the relief of London. With the fate of these beleaguered places of their minds, London has evolved itself from the depressing gloom that for months has been overhanging it. There is now talk of balls, dinners and entertaining. There are brighter looks in the faces of crowds that throng the streets, and even the women seemed to bring out gayer gowns. There is to be

Something of a Season

after all, and "Little Bobs" is the hero of the hour.
Even at this stage of the war, which can scarcely be considered much more than initial from the British point of view, he would be granted every honor in the people's power to give, if only public opinion and gratitude became operative. Above every other man and every other circumstance he stands out from those grim happenings in Africa, clothed in the halo of victory. Loudly he is hailed as giving the living lie to those who say that the pluck and brains that made Great Britain victorious in the Crimea, in India, and in Afghanistan had passed away from her. The circumstances of his hurried departure, when he subordinated

the needs of the country, his feats on the battle fields of old, his tremendous personal magnetism, and his surprising kindness and simplicity are all brought into rapid review by means of conversation or the newspapers, before the average Englishman, until it is a small wonder that the hero of Kandahar has reached that pinnacle where his courage would deny him nothing.

Gen. Kitchener's automatic way of doing things and his hardness of heart have been so much paraded before the public since he first achieved greatness, that he has lost much of his popularity

and, while he possesses the national confidence to an

Almost Unequaled Extent,

it is patent that the nation as a whole would rather than the opportunities fell to "Bobs" than to his iron-willed chief of staff.

A curious incident of the system that prevails in the war office occurred this week. Immediately after the Queen's proclamation appealing to the patriotism of her old soldiers and asking them to re-enlist under the government's new plan to strengthen the army, was published, there flocked to headquarters large numbers of men anxious to answer the Queen's request. They were all turned away because the war office has not yet issued any instructions regarding the acceptance of such offers.

Not Formulated Any Plan

for putting into action the general proposals adopted by parliament.
The death of Joseph Cowen, the coal mine owner, member of parliament, and proprietor of the Newcastle Chronicle, has removed one of the best known and most remarkable figures in English life, and one of the most extraordinary men in Europe. His whole life and personality teemed with vivid contrasts. He was a millionaire, yet dressed in slouchy clothes, and as brilliant an orator as ever held the House of Commons. In breathless attention, yet of small stature and awkward gait. Cowen was

Naturally a Home Ruler.

yet none was more potent or more often quoted in arguments furnished in favor of the present war than the sentences penned by Cowen shortly before his death, when he declared that Great Britain was fighting to "prevent men of British blood from being treated as helots." Many years ago he retired from politics, owing to his independent ideas, devoting his attention to his paper, the Newcastle Chronicle, which wielded almost as much political influence in the north country as Mr. Cowen did when men pointed to him in the House of Commons as the next Liberal Prime Minister.

CANADIAN BRIEFS.

(Associated Press.)

Windsor, Feb. 4.—Capt. Jas. Gourlay, well-known on the upper lakes, is dead, aged 65 years.

Blackwater, Feb. 24.—Wesley Hodgson, aged 19, of Cannington; Russell Lake, aged 18, of Greenbank, and Gertrude Lake, aged 10 years, of Pasco Lake, were all burned to death in the house of Mr. Lake, at Pasco Lake, on Thursday morning.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—The Massey-Harris Co. has been granted an injunction to restrain the strikers from intimidating, molesting, or using or threatening violence towards the employees who are willing to work for the company. The company have found it almost impossible to get men to replace the strikers.

E. Company, 48th Highlanders, has volunteered for garrison duty as a unit, should either the Dominion or Imperial authorities require it.

Montreal, Feb. 24.—The court of appeal this morning rendered judgment sustaining the decision of the superior court, which declared the Standard Assurance Company was obliged to pay the insurance of Isidore Poirier, the victim of the St. Canute tragedy, for which his wife, Cordelia Viau, and Sam Parslow were hanged.

TOOK CARBOLIC ACID.

(Associated Press.)
New York, Feb. 24.—Accused by her husband of being faithless, Mrs. Martha Dittmeyer, a handsome woman of 29, took carbolic acid this morning with fatal results. Mr. Dittmeyer said she left her home yesterday and returned about midnight, and when she attempted to enter the home he locked the doors against her. Later, screams in the cellar aroused Dittmeyer, who found his wife on the cellar floor with a bottle labelled carbolic acid in her hands.

FOUND DEAD.

(Associated Press.)
Geneva, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The body of Mrs. Dennis J. McCarthy, of this place, was found this morning in Marsh creek. Just how she came to her death is at present unknown. She was on the way from her home to visit the grave of her daughter, who committed suicide by drinking carbolic acid nine days ago.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGE.

(Associated Press.)
Washington, Feb. 24.—The Honorable Lillian Pauncefoot, daughter of Lord Pauncefoot, British ambassador to the United States, was married at high noon to-day to Honorable Robert Bromley, of Stoll Hall, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England.

PROF. BOYER DEAD.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Prof. E. R. Boyer, director of the Chicago College of Pedagogy, died here this morning of pneumonia. Prof. Boyer was well known in educational circles.

SIR HIBBERT TUPPER.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—Sir Hibbert Tupper is spoken of here as likely to enter provincial politics and lead the Conservatives.

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM.

Statistics show that 25 per cent. of men and women suffer the torture of itching piles. Investigation proves that Dr. A. W. Chase's Ointment has never yet failed to cure itching piles, and all of these men and women could end their sufferings at once by using it. Scores of thousands have been cured by this treatment. Everybody can be cured in the same way.

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Political Situation

The Latest is That Hon Fred Peters Will Be Called in by the Governor.

An All Day Informal Sitting at the House by the Members - Rumors Galore.

Much has been done today and more will be done this evening, that will have a very potent influence upon the future of politics in British Columbia. It has been a day of suspense for those who have been keeping their eye upon the political kaleidoscope. So far it would be impossible to depart from the safe ground of general guess work, in which the probabilities and possibilities of the future are coupled, temporarily, with the names of this or that prominent man. The very air is quivering with rumors of every sort and kind, and the wildest theories are about as to what should be done and what not.

Some of the schemes put forward as means of solving the problem make the practical politician gasp with amazement, they are so eminently unfitted for use in any such crisis as the present shows; but it has been noted all through the discussion that there is a very strong and determined attempt to secure now for British Columbia a purely and distinctively provincial government, that is a government devoted wholly to the interests of the country as against mere party interests. This view has been expressed to the Times representative repeatedly by many business men waited upon today with respect to the political deadlock.

It seems to be felt by the public, especially by the merchant and working classes, that the time has come for a radical departure from the old forms of things and a rally on a platform which has British Columbia's interests first, last and always for its main plank. It is apparently the feeling of the people that there has been enough of party bickering and that in the present position of affairs in the empire there is urgent need for a united front in British Columbia—one people with a single purpose, and that the advancement of the province.

Reference to the short interviews published in another column of this issue will clearly show how predominant is this feeling amongst the business men of this city.

Individuals.

Mr. David W. Higgins is happy. He is confident, and when a man is confident he cannot well be unhappy; nor certainty of something is one of the chief ingredients in the pleasure known as happiness. "The reason why the ex-Speaker is happy in that, he feels that the Esquimalt district is his story, because of his attitude on the Redistribution bill, and because of his brave stand for precedents, rules and orders throughout the unprecedented unruly and disorderly session." (Quotation from an opposition interview.) Mr. Higgins looks upon Esquimalt district as "safe, certain, sure" for him, and while he may not have the receipts of ownership in his pocket, his conduct in the House as its representative enabled him to say it amounts to the same thing. Mr. Higgins is one of the most positive of the politicians to be met with nowadays around the city. While the others are groping somewhat uneasily in suspense and uncertainty, he is enjoying clear weather and a morning on the continent west of our territory. His case presents an inspiring contrast to that of the other members, who are not "prophesying because they know."

The third (7) member for Vancouver City was early at the buildings today, and the spring of his step as he went up the east avenue towards the marble stairs indicated, or seemed to indicate, that he was well pleased with things in general. Mr. Martin, like the other members, has nothing to say about the crisis, but, of course, he has a heart for any fate, and when the psychological moment comes he will probably be found as ready as in days of yore. What others say regarding the movements of Mr. Martin is not so interesting as would be a statement from the gentleman himself, but a few of the members believe that the ex-Attorney-General is not preparing to occupy any of the back seats in the coming rearrangement, but that, on the contrary, he is preparing something of a totally original nature. This is to be sure, quite in accordance with the known characteristics of Mr. Martin. Whether the powers that be recognize in this turn of affairs the opportunity for which Mr. Martin has been waiting for so many long months, there can be no doubt at all that he so recognizes it, and will deal with it as vigorously and decisively as he has dealt with other opportunities which have been presented to him.

Mr. Edgar Dewdney. It is impossible to avoid reference now to ex-Lieut. Governor Dewdney in connection with the present situation of affairs. One hears it mentioned everywhere throughout the city, and where so much is said there must be some ground for this use of a well known name. But it is impossible to discover any foundation for the circulation of Mr. Dewdney's name except that he has a very large number of admirers and supporters in the city who would be very pleased to see him once more in public life. Some members of the legislature who were spoken to regarding the matter said that while Mr. Dewdney might find a good deal of favor in Victoria, and even on the island, he would not be acceptable on the mainland, especially in the upper West. The matter is mentioned here for what it is worth, and that can be determined only by the events which are expected to occur during the present week.

Mr. G. B. Martin. Since the defeat of the government the

ex-Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works has suffered the battle from afar and all the old political blood has boiled up. There is something more than a likelihood that if the opportunity occur Mr. Martin will be found in the field again in an attempt to recover his lost kingdom in North Yale. But he has, so residents of that district now in the city say, not the ghost of a chance of success against the present member, Mr. Deane, who is one of the most popular men in the whole district, and whose work during the present session has immensely increased the confidence his constituents have in him. Mr. Martin, however, is not likely to slip a chance of another fight.

Mr. Forbes G. Vernon. Those who suppose that the former Agent-General of British Columbia in London has given up hope of ever enjoying the sunshine of power, are badly mistaken. Mr. Vernon, it is learned, will be found busy at work in the interests of his party, the Turner faction, to get them into power, in order that he may return once more to the lucrative and extremely onerous occupation of London, under the title of agent-general in London. Rumor has it that Mr. Vernon will be actively engaged, in the event of an election, in the effort to restore the old order of things. It may be said, in fact, that all the slumbering ambitions in the province have been suddenly re-awakened, and there is no politician, however hoary, who does not think himself good enough yet for another whirl in the giddy mazes of the political wars.

Mr. James Dunsmuir. Several supporters of the Selmin government to whom the name of Mr. James Dunsmuir was mentioned in connection with the premiership positively declined to consider the matter at all. They pointed out that while Mr. Dunsmuir might be very acceptable to some sections of the island electorate he could not hope for island-wide support, and that the slightest support across the gulf.

Is it Peters? Shortly after noon to-day it was learned from sources which are entitled to credence that Mr. Joseph Martin will be called in, but that the choice of the Governor will fall upon the Hon. Fred Peters. How much reliance is to be placed in this report it is impossible to say at the present time, but the authority upon which it is based is good. Some of the ministers to whom this was made known appeared to think it was not so improbable.

President Selmin, in reply to a question as to a statement made by the Colonist yesterday that he intended going to London as agent-general, said this afternoon he did not entertain any such idea.

THE "BAYS" SYMPATHY.

Resolutions Passed at the Meeting of the Club Last Night—Will Subscribe to a Memorial.

At the meeting of the J.B.A.A. last night, it was decided that the club should attend in a body the drum-head service at the Drill Hall to-morrow. The following resolutions were passed: Be it resolved, that this association wishes to record its deep sense of the irreparable loss it has sustained in the death of Modder River, South Africa, on Sunday, the 18th instant, of Sergt. William Ironsides Scott, a member of this association since 1892, and its most highly prized member, who was slain while nobly discharging his duty in fighting the battles of his Queen and country.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. James Scott in behalf of the family, and tendering him the sincere sympathy of this association in the great loss they have sustained. Be it further resolved, that members of this association, out of respect, do attend at the Drill Hall, Sunday, the 25th, the drum-head service in memory of our deceased member, and all his other comrades who fell with him.

Be it further resolved, that this association tender its heartfelt sympathy to the families of all those Canadians who fell at the same time. The following letter has been received by the editor of the Times in reference to the proposal made by citizens generally immediately on receipt of the news of the death of the boys: Sir—I am instructed by the managing committee of the J. B. A. A. to inform you that the members of this association hold themselves in readiness to contribute liberally to the funds for the monument suggested to be erected to the memory of the Victoria boys who were slain at Modder River on Sunday last.

Yours faithfully, A. J. DALLAN. The following poem has been written by Thomas Harman: Loved is our flag? Yet not in defeat; In our brother's gore! No need to repeat Deeds of his manhood, or generous, kind heart. Proud in our grief—still 'tis hard, hard to kneel None knew "Bully" but to claim him as friend; Staunch and upright, and right he'd defend. At our Queen's pageant show of her Empire's sons, He for his comrades new honors won. So when the call for "Country and Queen."

With no faltering heart or doubtful main We saw him proudly march away, With comrades brave, and smiles so gay. But now on far-off Arctie's shore, He lies the Modder River, sure "He" died a "Hero" No greater honor can we pay. Than "droop" our flag o'er J. B. A. A.

THE DOCTOR'S CONSOLATION.

Told Him He Was a Dying Man, but South American Nervine Cured When Hope Was Abandoned.

Mr. W. J. Hill, well known man in Prince George, Ont., suffered for years from liver trouble, dyspepsia and nervous weakness. He says he tried nearly every remedy in the market which claimed to meet his case without success. He was told by a physician that he was a dying man. He began taking South American Nervine, and almost immediately benefit from its use. He continued using it, and to-day says he would stake his life on this great remedy as a cure for all like sufferers. Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

Business Men's Views

Some Merchants of the City on the Present Political Crisis.

Opinions Are Strongly Against Introducing Party Lines at Present Time.

This forenoon a Times representative interviewed a number of prominent citizens and business men with a view to obtaining their opinion regarding the present political impasse. Unfortunately not all the gentlemen intended to be visited could be seen, but the following willingly expressed their views on the matter, and it will be observed there is a remarkable unanimity of opinion amongst them on most of the points.

Ex-Mayor Redfern said he would like to see some arrangement made between the parties now in the House by which the government of the country could be carried on without the necessity of a dissolution. He was in favor of a coalition if it were possible. The parties are so evenly divided, he could not see where there was any political question dividing them; it was simply, it appeared to him, a personal matter now, and there ought to be no great difficulty in coming to an understanding. Both sides were very well agreed now as to the best policy which ought to be pursued now that the "lien law" and other objectionable enactments had been cancelled, thus removing any really contentious issues between the parties. It was very desirable, he thought, that some sort of understanding should be come to in order that the government and thus save the country the expense and turmoil of a general election, and he could not see why this could not very well be done out of the materials now in the House. If that was not possible, however, he would not object to a coalition, but it would not be pressed until after the election. This would compel early action. If supply was passed the government, of course, could go on indefinitely.

Mr. J. Stewart Yates was wholly opposed to the introduction of party lines as an outcome of the present crisis. If there were to be a coalition it would depend very much on the component parts of that coalition whether he would approve of it or not. In some respects a coalition would be a good thing, in some others it would be a very bad thing. He did not think the province had been very fairly treated, and he would not support the government, and he would not support the opposition.

Mr. C. E. Renouf had very little to say, and summed it all up sentimentally thus: "I am strongly opposed to Dominion party lines in provincial politics. The sooner the present state of things in provincial affairs is settled the better for all concerned."

Mr. Walter Morris, the junior partner of the well-known firm of Okell & Morris was very willing to give the matter a trial. A coalition would be very much better than anything else just now if it were composed of the strongest men available in the House. If it contained weak or dissident members it would not be satisfactory. This would be a most awkward time to go to the country, he thought. He was, he confessed, somewhat surprised at the attitude of the Turner party in having forced the government into the present position, taking the state of the country internally and externally into consideration.

Undoubtedly there had been far too much of the spirit of party before country in the politics of the part, and he was thoroughly disgusted with the party politics which had been followed. The men who had taken a leading part in these things were not, he felt confident, possess the confidence of the country. There had been far too much of that party selfishness whose motto is: "What can we get out of this?" and never mind the country. He would like to see all this dropped and a return made to the pure principles of good government. The time had come in this province when something higher and nobler than mere money getting or grabbing for power should be introduced into politics. If some radical change were not soon made British Columbia's interests abroad would be irreparably injured. He repeated that Mr. McCarty's resignation, most inopportune time to introduce the general election; it would do British Columbia no good.

Mr. John Jardine. Expressed himself strongly opposed to party lines at the present time. If there were any way by which the present parties could unite and carry on the government for the benefit of the province he would heartily welcome it, and he believed the people were desirous of some such arrangement. He admired Mr. Joseph Martin's abilities, and thought that if the men with which he had been associated could only be got to work in harmony with him a very strong and able government could be formed which would achieve great good for the province.

Mr. W. H. Bone. The manager of Messrs. T. N. Hibben & Co. Ltd., would like to see selected for the new government the best men possible to find. He did not think the people were greatly impressed with mere party cries or arguments, but would stand by a really good man, no matter to which party he belonged, if they could find him. He was strongly opposed to the introduction of Dominion party lines. He was in favor of a coalition if it could be accomplished without sacrificing too much to party interests. If with more party cries arguments, but would stand by a really good man, no matter to which party he belonged, if they could find him. He was strongly opposed to the introduction of Dominion party lines. He was in favor of a coalition if it could be accomplished without sacrificing too much to party interests. If with more party cries arguments, but would stand by a really good man, no matter to which party he belonged, if they could find him. He was strongly opposed to the introduction of Dominion party lines.

These were all the opinions it was found possible to print before going to press.

NEW POLICE CONSTABLES.

Appointments Made on Saturday Afternoon—R. H. Walker to Be Sergeant.

The board of police commissioners met in the city hall on Saturday afternoon to consider the appointments received in response to the advertisements in the last papers calling for four new constables. There were present: Mayor Hayward in the chair, Commissioners Stewart and Pacey, and Chief Langley. The number of applications received was 48, of which 44 were for the position of constables, and 4 for sergeants. After thoroughly examining into the respective qualifications of the applicants and the various testimonials, the board made the following appointments: To be sergeant, Constable R. H. Walker; constable, H. W. Sheppard; and constables, Ezra Carlow, W. H. Handley and H. J. O'Leary.

THE PASSING THROUG.

Arrivals of the Day at the City Hotels - Gossip of the Corridors.

R. Seabrook, vice-president of the firm of R. P. Ribbet & Co., is again back at his desk after a vacation that was scarcely an uneventful one. He left here some weeks ago to go to Honolulu for a holiday in search of health, and on his arrival there found that bubonic plague had broken out and the port was quarantined. The quarantine was raised when he reached there, but a few days later more cases were found and then began the long quarantine, which is still on. Mr. Seabrook says when he left there on January 27th, as third mate of the good ship Santa Clara, he skipped in that capacity to get around the law, which forbids the carrying of passengers; there were from fifty to sixty cases of plague in the Hawaiian capital. The people were quite calm until Mrs. Boardman, the wife of a large importer of coal labor, died of the plague, and then says Mr. Seabrook, the Hawaiian hotel where he was staying while in Honolulu was filled with white-faced men. The city was panic-stricken for a short time, but it soon resumed its placidity. The people ascribed the fact of Mrs. Boardman's contracting the disease to contact with some of the many Asiatics her husband had around him. Mr. Seabrook was "lost" for news while in Honolulu. People there have to wait for the steamers from here and the Coast to get news of the war and other happenings of the world. His mind improved in health as a result of his trip.

Smith Curtis, secretary of the Sunset Copper Co., who has properties on Copper Mountain, arrived by the Islander last night, and is registered at the Driad. He tells a glowing tale of the prospects of the Similkameen country as a mining district. His company has sunk a shaft down 125 to 130 feet, and yet they are by no means through the vein. In all 20 men are now at work in the mine. The surface inclinations there have the mineralized ledge extends for 400 feet. Mr. Curtis is here on business for the company.

Miss Carrie Austin, of Cadboro Bay road, who has been very ill with nervous prostration, is happily now on the road to recovery. Mrs. H. E. Croisdale, Nelson, and her little daughter are staying with Mrs. Walkem at "Maplehurst." Mrs. Croisdale is very warmly welcomed by many old-time friends.

TEXADA HOTEL DISPUTE.

Mrs. George Le Roy Charged With Larceny.

(Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, Feb. 26.—Mrs. George Le Roy is the subject of a charge of larceny, where she will await trial on a charge of larceny. Mrs. Le Roy was the proprietress of the Copper Queen hotel, on Texada Island, and obtained a license to conduct a saloon there last November. Then she took a partner named Wilson, who alleges that he furnished the money to purchase liquor and cigars to stock the bar. Mr. Wilson further alleges that for a consideration Mrs. Le Roy agreed to transfer the license to him. He says that she sent him to Nanaimo to arrange for the transfer of the license, and while he was away she disposed of a great part of the stock in trade and removed the balance and concealed it. When Wilson returned to the hotel, Mrs. Le Roy refused to let him enter the building, and threatened to use a shotgun. The man who claims to have bought the liquor and cigars thinks he has not been treated exactly right, and he applied to Justice McCarty and Seymour for a warrant for Mrs. Le Roy's arrest. After examination she was committed for trial. Memorial services were held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church last evening in honor of the dead Canadian. There was a large number of people present to listen to the touching and eloquent discourse of Rev. W. B. Cumming, the pastor.

DEATH'S CLOSE NEIGHBOR.

For Twenty Years Mrs. Roadhouse Was Subject of Dread Heart Disease—Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart Gave Her Relief in Less Than Half an Hour. Mrs. Roadhouse, of Williscroft, Ont., is 54 years old. For more than twenty years she had been a great sufferer from heart disease. The pain and palpitation at times lasted for five hours, and so acute that often she wished for death that she might find relief from her sufferings, but she was attracted to Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart through reading of the wonderful cures wrought by it. She commenced using it and in one of her most distressing heart spasms found complete relief inside of thirty minutes. She swears by it to-day as the only heart cure. Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children. Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

Libel Case Dismissed

Insufficiency of Evidence to Justify a Commitment for Trial.

Similar Charge Against Charles Wentworth Sorel Heard This Afternoon.

The charge against George Sheldon Williams of publishing a defamatory libelous article concerning the Lieutenant-Governor in the Kamloops Standard on January 11th was dismissed in the police court this morning, the magistrate ruling that the evidence adduced against the defendant was not sufficient to justify him in sending the case up for trial. A similar charge against Charles Wentworth Sorel, editor of the Kamloops Standard, is being proceeded without delay.

There were two witnesses examined this morning, William George Workman, printer of the Kamloops Standard, and Harry Morton, of the Kamloops Standard. The former stated that he had "set up" the article in question. A question from the deputy attorney-general as to whether the handwriting resembled that on the exhibits or manuscripts produced, brought forth a strenuous objection from Mr. Walls, who maintained that evidence of this nature was certainly not admissible. This view was taken by the magistrate, after which the witness continuing, stated that as far as he could remember the signature at the bottom of the letter was "Observer." He had seen other similar letters signed "Observer." Mr. Walls objected to this line of examination on the ground that Observer being a stock name the present letter as signed would have no connection with previous letters. This witness was called to contradict the evidence of Mr. Sorel, one of the deputy attorney-general's own witnesses.

The magistrate decided that Mr. McLear's question at this point was reasonable, and continuing the evidence said that he did not insert the name Observer himself, they appearing on the manuscript. He had "set up" two or three letters signed "Observer." He could not swear, but he surmised that Mr. Sorel acted as editor of the Kamloops Standard.

Harry Morton, proprietor of the Kamloops Standard, was next examined, and testified that on the night the article came up in the Legislature Mr. Warden came in search of the defendant. About 10 o'clock Warden found Mr. Williams at his place, and in response to a question from Warden defendant replied that he had just been down to the boat. Warden then told the defendant that he had got himself (Williams) into a fix, and Williams replied: "What has he got to do with me?" Warden then accused defendant of writing the libelous article, but Williams denied this allegation, remarking incidentally: "That he didn't write it." He had always heard the defendant deny in strong terms the accusation that he had written the article complained of.

Mr. Walls submitted, in closing the case for the defence, that there was no evidence connecting the authorship of the article with his client. When Mr. Sorel's evidence was heard during the most of it was very objectionable. Both counsel had desisted from pressing the objected questions because each expected the recovery by the original manuscript to prove his case. Mr. Sorel was not a hostile witness, but showed by his efforts to find the manuscript that he was a most friendly witness to the Crown. Sorel had no desire to protect Williams, and his interests really would be to allow the defendant to suffer and protect himself. The evidence of Mr. Sorel, in which Williams was connected at all, could be holed down to a few pages.

The evidence against his client was that he might have written the letter, but it was not shown he had written it. The second point against his client was that his name showed him to have written it, which was certainly evidence of a very trifling nature. The third point was that the defendant had been a volunteer. The idea of accusing his client of writing the article complained of because he had been a volunteer was too ridiculous to mention. There was not one little circumstantial or direct evidence to connect his client with the authorship of that article.

As to Mr. Greg's evidence, he was certainly not a handwriting expert. Even suppose the contentions of his learned friend, the deputy attorney-general, were correct in regard to the handwriting of the manuscripts of the subsequent articles, they certainly do not connect his client with the article in question. As to Mr. Schaeffer's evidence, Mr. Walls mentioned that it was not for publication, inasmuch as it merely referred to the receipt and filing of the Kamloops Standard.

As to Mr. Young, the speaker remarked that he had practically sworn to nothing as regards his client. In fact Mr. Young knew absolutely nothing about the case, and his evidence was of no weight whatever. The same might have been said of Mr. Cas's evidence. Mr. Warden, the speaker claimed, was an informer of the very worst class, who actually endeavored to trap his client, and while in companionship with him asked him if he wrote the article. Then when Mr. Williams denied the accusation, Warden called him a liar.

"Then what did Warden do?" Why he ran away to those who induced him, probably by hope of promotion, to turn informer, and said: "I can't get this man to confess to writing the article, and I liked in my quarter, and Mr. Walls held that Warden's evidence was of little weight; on the face of which his learned friend, the Deputy Attorney-General, had the audacity to ask the magistrate to send his client up for trial. Mr. McLear, speaking with regard to Mr. Walls' onslaught on Mr. Warden, and as to whether he was an informer, emphatically said that such was not the case. The information regarding the conversation was not received from Mr. Warden, but from an outside source. Consequently Mr. Warden was then sub-

joined, and coming to court had certainly to tell the truth. He submitted that the evidence the crown had given connected the defendant with the article. Most crimes were not proven directly, but indirectly and the jury drew their conclusions or inferences. He had laid before the court certain facts from which a jury might infer that defendant was the writer of the article.

Dealing with the evidence of Mr. Sorel, the editor of the Kamloops Standard, the speaker said that Mr. Sorel had given his statement on oath that he was a hostile witness to the crown. Apart from the direct statement there was the whole tenor of his evidence. On Mr. Sorel's testimony the only fair inference was that he was the only man in the office on January 11th responsible for the appearance of the letter in the paper. Mr. Sorel had admitted adding a certain paragraph to the letter in question, and that the only portion Mr. Sorel wrote was the paragraph referred to.

Another point was with reference to the acceptance of the letter in its entirety. Mr. Sorel's evidence showed that he had accepted the letter in its entirety, and added the aforementioned paragraph on the end of it, and that was how it got into the paper. The evidence of the typewriter showed that the word "Observer" was the nom de plume of the Victoria correspondent.

In regard to the number of letters received by Mr. Sorel since he was received, he had stated that he might have received five or fifty. Surely he could have attained a familiarity with defendant's handwriting after reading these. The statement by Mr. Sorel that when he read the article he laughed, because he thought it a good caricature, would lead one to believe that not he, but Mr. Williams, was the Victoria correspondent, and Mr. McLear mentioned that he had proved that "Observer" was Mr. Williams. To show clearly that Mr. Sorel did not write the article, his statement that had "he known of it, it would not have gone into the paper" was sufficient evidence on this point. Mr. Sorel's statement that he may have written under the nom de plume of "Observer" narrowed the authorship of the article to himself and Williams, and it was proven, he maintained, that Mr. Sorel did not write the article.

As regards the evidence in which Williams was referred to as a volunteer, the speaker designated this as a circumstance, inasmuch as the writer in the complained of article incidentally remarked that he had once acted as a member of the guard of honor in a similar function, referring to the opening of the House. When Williams was asked to come on the stand by Mr. Sorel and the subject of legal proceedings mentioned to him, he did not deny at once having written the article, which was a specific admission that Mr. Williams was the author of the article.

Mr. Warden had been acquainted with Mr. Williams for some time, and he submitted that Mr. Warden was familiar with the defendant's style of literary composition. Mr. Warden had stated that the produced manuscript was in the defendant's handwriting, and the speaker maintained that was sufficient proof that Williams was the writer of the original article. Mr. Greg did not testify that all the handwriting in the several manuscripts was Mr. Williams', but he stated that the body of the exhibits were in Mr. Williams' handwriting. Consequently it was on these facts that he submitted that a case was made out showing the necessity of further investigation.

Magistrate Hall, in giving his decision, stated that the suspicious circumstances were of a vague nature and not sufficient to justify him in sending the case up for trial. The charge was consequently dismissed.

The case of Mr. Charles Wentworth Sorel, charged with publishing the complained of article, is being heard this afternoon.

IT'S ALWAYS MIDNIGHT GLOOM

to the sufferer from stomach diseases and the diseases which can be directly traced there—neglect or ignorance may have produced the darkness, but so sure as night follows day, just so surely will Dr. Van Stan's Pleasant Little Pills in the sunshine and bring back the natural brightness of perfect health. This is taking strong cathartics out of your system—one tablet after eating—40 in a box—35 cents. Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

If there ever was a specific for any one complaint, these Pleasant Little Pills are a specific for sick headache, and every woman should know this. Only one pill a day.

The Plattsville Powder Mills were wrecked by an explosion on Saturday, killing three men and badly injuring another.

A Friend's Advice

When you find your kidneys out of order, when your back aches, when you get pains and give you endless misery, when you have to rise often in the night and endure torture during the day—take a box of DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS.

There are lots of people in your town, friends and neighbors of yours, who have been cured by this remedy. Mr. T. Sarchet, merchant at Lor. Brockville, Ont., says they cured him of a severe attack of backache and kidney trouble.

They cured Mrs. E. Ford, St. Thomas, Ont., of dropsy. Mrs. Wm. McNeill, 85 St. James St., St. John, N. B., says they cured her of distressing backache, from which she suffered for over six months.

From nearly every city and town in the Dominion we get statements similar to the above. People who have used them are always glad to say a good word for Doan's Kidney Pills, and recommend them to others. The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto.

WOMEN

Can Have Again by Us—and Nerve

Share of Pain Heart Palpitation, Nervousness, with Constipation

Teaches, weak and melancholy that cause, for from any or nerves, or very, try Mills. They will do for your case; if ill and did myself. I was and frequently when every me and I. There was a bur-

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DEFEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

It had been apparent for a considerable time that the Semlin administration had about run its course, but the end came more quickly than was generally expected. It was taken for granted that Mr. Joseph Martin would support the redistribution bill, as he was known to be in favor of such a measure, but his opposition precipitated the collapse which at the most could only have been postponed a few days. The original Semlin cabinet contained elements which could never have been reconciled and made to work in harmony even with a strong hand to guide and direct it. The old story of the house divided had been repeated. There was strife as to who should step into the shoes of the Premier, who was looked upon by several of his lieutenants as merely the nominal head of the administration. The public have heard only one side of the story in regard to these intrigues, but that there are two sides is clear from the results which followed the outbreak. Advantage was taken of the hypocritical outcries of the opposition press in regard to the private life of Mr. Martin to turn him out of the government, and from that time the disintegrating forces have been at work. The Times condemned the ex-attorney-general for his attacks on the Premier, which were certainly to be deplored. We pointed out that Mr. Semlin had served the province well as a private member of the legislature and as a leader of the opposition for many years, and as a matter of simple justice when the tide of public opinion had turned and his party found itself at the head of a majority in the Legislature he should have been allowed to retain the premier's position until he desired to give it up of his own free will. These internal dissensions were undoubtedly the primary cause of the government's downfall. The retirement of Mr. Martin, notwithstanding the acts which we have mentioned as demanding our disapproval, meant the loss of the strongest force in the government, and its collapse in course of time was inevitable. Mr. Higgins's withdrawal of his support upon grounds somewhat whimsical, it appears to us, hastened the forces of dissolution, while Mr. Prentice, whose opposition to the Coal Mines Regulation Bill warned the government of the inevitable end, administered the death-blow by opposing the redistribution measure.

As the intentions of the defeated ministry were of the best and some of its acts at least worthy of commendation, and its course in general a vast improvement over that of its predecessor, some of the legislation of last session, notably the eight-hour law and the alien exclusion law, were at least hasty. The principle of the eight-hour measure is worthy of commendation, but the bill was rushed through too hurriedly, and the effect of its passage could not but be temporarily prejudicial. In matters of such possibly far-reaching consequences it is well to be very cautious. We believe the better way is to allow employer and employee to adjust such matters between themselves. But the law on the whole is a commendable one, for eight hours underground in a day is all any man can stand and retain good health, and it is not likely that any succeeding government will remove it from the statute books of the province.

There does not appear to be any possibility of the defeated administration forming any kind of a combination which will admit of their carrying on the government, and the same may be said of the other side. The only solution seems to lie in an election, and if the Premier asks permission to go to the country we do not see how his request can be refused. Of course Mr. Semlin may advise the Lieut.-Governor to call on some member to form an administration or his Honor may act in the matter on his own volition, but how a stable government can be formed out of the present elements without an appeal to the people is incomprehensible.

We believe the general feeling on the government side of the House is one of relief that matters have reached a crisis, for the conditions lately have been intolerable, and the formation of an administration capable of dealing with the affairs of the province with a strong hand will be a welcome relief. Mr. Semlin may be sure that whatever happens he retires from his present position retaining the respect and esteem of all the people of the province, and their sincere desire will be that he may long remain a member of the House.

VICTORIA TO CHILLAWACK.

On Wednesday next the vote on the Victoria-Chilliwack Railway By-law will be taken. If the by-law be passed there will still be some difficulties to overcome, but if our citizens will act as one man and show a determination to secure railway connection it can be done. It is very easy to pick flaws here and there, as the Colonist has been doing while avoiding the principle underlying the by-law. It is easier to destroy than to build. Let the voters consider this scheme in a broad spirit. Would this railway connection benefit Victoria? Is it the voters' duty to pass the by-law?

The ratepayers have this to bear in mind, that the \$500,000 is payable in the same proportion as the calls are levied on the other shareholders, that the company must have \$300,000 available before the city can be called upon for payment of one dollar, that the city is represented on the board of directors of

the company, and that the city's representatives on the board will have control.

Any proposition which does not relieve the city of the amount now paid on the bonds of the Sidney railway under the guarantee, \$9,000, should not be seriously considered by the ratepayers. Evidently Mr. T. W. Paterson is a "bete noire" with the Colonist. Mr. Paterson happens to own the Sidney road, and although as a practical railroad man he says that this proposition is a good one for the city, he is not behind the scheme. The people of Victoria—or at least a goodly number of them—are behind it.

The late Hon. Amor de Cosmos and his associates spent \$20,000 making surveys and plans of this route. Mr. H. P. Bell, C.E., was their chief engineer and has had access to the data and plans of the old company. He was over the ground again last year, and he has over his own signature stated the practicability and cost of the undertaking.

It is of no use going to parliament, either Provincial or Federal, for either charter, grant or subsidy, until the citizens themselves have demonstrated their faith in their own city and have backed up their opinion by liberally subscribing to the stock of the company. Having done this we may reasonably expect to secure a certain measure of success with either or both governments, but not before.

The Colonist states that if the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern railway scheme a Federal bonus it would give Victoria all the Victoria-Chilliwack scheme proposes without any charges to the city. Is this a red herring being drawn across the trail, or is the Colonist in a position to state authoritatively that the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern has any assurance of Federal aid, and whether on such assurance being secured it will give to the city of Victoria the facilities the Chilliwack scheme proposes and the transcontinental railway connections it assures, and at the same time relieve the city of its annual payments on the Sidney road? Will they do all this without asking the city for a cent? If so, now is the time for some one who can speak authoritatively to say so.

TIME TO CALL A HALT.

Those members on the government side of the House who remember the seemingly good-natured, indolent Mr. Eberts of the halcyon days of Turnerism are no doubt a good deal astonished at the torrents of wrath which have been showered about their heads this session by the aroused member for South Victoria. The legislators surely could have had no conception of the volcano of invective over which they were innocently treading in the course of debate or they would have been careful not to do anything to set free the lava streams of abuse which have been poured upon one after another. We had occasion yesterday to refer to the lofty plane to which Mr. Eberts was lifting the discussions in the House and gave a sample of the hon. gentleman's favorite style of argument. His language on Tuesday was that of the "bookie"; yesterday it was that of the bully. Mr. Eberts called a member of the House a liar, and justified himself by saying he would not be a gentleman if he did not use that expression towards him. Now that may be the conduct of a gentleman as Mr. Eberts understands it, but it is not the behavior of a man. We have always understood that a gentleman takes defeat gracefully; he willingly accepts the inevitable and waits an opportunity to turn the tables. It is quite possible to deal vigorously with an opponent without descending to the gutters for epithets to hurl at him. Mr. Turner should take his lieutenant aside and sternly admonish him as to the impropriety of his conduct, or perhaps Mr. Eberts could not do better than imitate the demeanor of his leader, who has been a model of courtesy and gentleness, although hitting hard when he had an opportunity, during the whole session.

Yesterday's trouble arose during the discussion of Mr. McPhillis's voting machine bill, when Mr. Eberts took occasion to make some reference to the Ontario "machine." Mr. Neill naively remarked that there were "machines" outside of Ontario, as was proved during the late elections in Alberni, in which Mr. Eberts assisted the opposition candidate, in whose election the member for South Victoria was interested. There were some rather questionable methods employed in behalf of Mr. Neill's opponent in that contest, and some one was punished for personation. Mr. Turner's choleric lieutenant took this as a reflection on his honor as a gentleman, claimed he was not personally interested in the result of the election, and intimated that the member for Alberni was a liar. This is what our discriminating morning contemporary calls giving a lesson to Mr. Neill—a gentlemanly admonition, as it were—such as one newsboy bestows on another. We have had the best of evidence that the member for South Victoria was directly interested in the Alberni election; his present mental condition proves it. His repose has been disturbed; he has been deprived of the pleasure of lounging in languorous ease in the Attorney-General's chair and has been roused to a state of mental and physical activity that is unnatural.

The fact is our friend from South Victoria has been playing to the galleries, which have been well filled every

day, and the spectators or falling into the habit of applauding or hissing, when the proceedings meet with their approval or disapproval, as the spirit moves them. We do not think that sort of thing should be tolerated in a Legislative Assembly, and if the auditors refuse to recognize the authority of the Speaker to stop such outbursts, then a constable should be stationed in the galleries to remove the disorderly ones.

DR. McKEON'S POSITION.

During the week there has been a good deal of discussion over the position the President of the Council has been placed in by accepting the payment of his actual travelling expenses in coming to Victoria to attend meetings of the cabinet. Mr. Turner expressed the opinion that Dr. McKeon had forfeited his seat, and was liable to a heavy penalty for every day he had sat in the House since he had been reimbursed for his outlay. The law which governs this matter is exactly the same statute as has been in force since 1871, and since Confederation the following gentlemen have occupied the position of the President of the Council: Henry Holbrook, Amor De Cosmos, E. Brown, G. A. Walker, R. Beaven, M. W. T. Drake, R. Dunsmuir, C. E. Pooley and R. E. McKeon. Since 1878 the gentlemen who have filled the office under discussion have all resided in Victoria, consequently they could not be at any expense for attending to their duties to the crown, and naturally the custom which governed in this matter had almost entirely been forgotten. On looking up the public accounts we find that Henry Holbrook, the first gentleman to preside over the Executive Council of the new province, in less than one year of office drew \$300 for travelling expenses. See page 30, public accounts, journals of 1872-73. Hon. Amor De Cosmos next occupied the president's chair, and although he lived in Victoria and could not present a claim for expenditures on account of attending to local business, he was reimbursed to the extent of \$1,600 "to cover travelling expenses to Canada" to attend to provincial business. Mr. De Cosmos was at this time a member of the Dominion House of Commons. These things are also recited in the public accounts, page 38, sessional papers, 1873-74. E. C. Brown presided over the Executive Council for less than a year and was indemnified to the extent of \$400 for his travelling expenses in attending Executive Council. These facts are also set forth in page 200 of the public accounts, sessional papers of 1877, and prove that in all cases where the President of the Council incurred any expenditure through coming to the capital to attend to the business of the province, his actual outlay at least was always returned to him.

The law which covers the case, revised statutes, 1897, reads as follows: "No person accepting or holding in British Columbia any office, commission or employment, permanent or temporary, to which an annual salary or any fee, allowance or emolument or profit of any kind or amount whatever from the province is attached, shall be eligible," etc. We contend that the only word in the above quotation which might apply to the case under discussion is the word allowance. Can actual travelling expenses be termed an allowance? We cannot understand how such an interpretation can be read into the statute. Members are allowed their travelling expenses to attend to their legislative duties, and why should the President of the Council be denied the same when he has to leave home to attend to his executive business, which is surely not less important than the legislative. We think those who raised this question are putting a strained interpretation on the statute, which if carried out as they read it would lead to no end of complications. We all know that committees of the House which have gone on trips to inspect jails, hospitals, asylums, etc., have in all cases had their expenses paid, and are we to be told that in accepting such payment these members have rendered themselves ineligible to sit in the House? We do not think it is reasonable to take such a position and do not see how it can be sustained. If the law literally means what has been contended, how many members have rendered themselves ineligible by their recent visit to the anglium at Westminster, and if the legislators who went there by so doing insisted themselves, has the government really been defeated? Members of the Dominion House of Commons have repeatedly served on commissions of various kinds and have accepted both salaries and expenses, but it has never been claimed that they violated the Dominion Independence of Parliament Act, and if the provincial law is what it is contended to be by some parties, then it should be amended in the direction of more liberality.

If a chance be not made, and the interpretation which has been set up in certain quarters be sustained, it simply means that only residents of Victoria will be eligible for the position. It is surely going far enough to ask members to place their time, which in one qualified for such an important post must be of some value, at the service of the province without insisting that they shall also pay their travelling expenses.

EVERY DRUGGIST

in the land sells Pain-Killer. The best remedy for sprains and bruises. The best remedy for cramps and colic. Avoid substitutes, there's only one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.

Provincial Legislature

Acrimonious Encounter Between Neill and Eberts at a House in Committee.

Debate on Second Reading of the Redistribution Bill Begins.

Victoria, February 22nd, 1900. Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:12 p. m. Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

The following petitions were presented: By Mr. Kelle, from the Kootenay Water, Power & Light Co. By Mr. J. M. Martin, from a large number of the citizens of Phoenix asking incorporation for their town. By Mr. Tisdall, from a number of printers in New Westminster, Nanaimo and Vancouver, asking that certain matters accepted by the Supreme Court be printed. By Mr. Green, from Sandon Miners' Union, asking extension of eight-hour law.

Reports. Mr. Green presented the 17th report of the private bills committee that the preamble had been proved of the Vancouver Consolidation Act.

A Technical Discussion. The Premier moved the House proceed to Bill No. 54 (Redistribution) on one. Mr. Turner pointed out that according to Rules and Orders "this" procedure could not be followed to-day, which was set apart for other business. After a considerable amount of discussion on the technicality the Premier in deference to the expressed wishes of the leader of the opposition withdrew his motion and moved that the House proceed with the order paper as printed.

Mr. Turner thought this an extraordinary proceeding, and said this was something that had never taken place before. There was a vote of censure on the government still on the order paper. Hon. Mr. Semlin said the leader of the opposition reminded him of the Boers in South Africa; when driven out of one ditch they fell back upon another. He had withdrawn the motion to please Mr. Turner, and now he objected to that. It was hard to know what the hon. gentleman wanted. Mr. Higgins said a vote of censure of confidence should take precedence of anything else. Mr. McPhillis could not see the reason for this move of the government unless a general election was near at hand. It was the only reasonable solution, to him, of the problem of a government with two years of life before it introducing a measure of this kind at this time.

The vote being taken the motion of the Premier was carried 20 to 17.

Question of Privilege. Mr. Higgins did not want to be rising all the time, but he had to complain once more that some important correspondence relating to the eight-hour law had been omitted from a return called for by the House. This was the eighth time he had risen to this subject.

Hon. Mr. Cotton presented the return referred to.

Mr. Higgins—is this a proper way to treat the House by this contemptuous to the House? He has treated the hon. gentleman with due respect and I look to him for the same.

Hon. Mr. Cotton begged the hon. gentleman's pardon. He had not thought he was doing anything wrong.

Hon. Mr. Hume assured Mr. Higgins the pigeonholes were being ransacked now and every effort was being made to get the matter completed.

Hon. Mr. Henderson thought Mr. Higgins's efforts were worthy of the highest admiration. He deserved credit for the manner in which he was pressing this matter on the government.

Returns Presented.

Hon. Mr. Cotton presented the following returns: (1) A statement regarding special warrants signed by Lieut.-Governor from 1897 to 1899, with any other expenditures incurred thereon. (2) An abstract of the revenue expenditure of the province for 1899. (3) A return of all correspondence in connection with loans in London in 1899.

Sandon Relief Bill.

The House went into committee on the Sandon City Relief Bill. Mr. Bryden in the chair. The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

Municipal Elections Amendment.

The Municipal Elections Act Amendment Act was next committed. Mr. Macpherson in the chair. After some discussion.

Mr. Eberts wanted to know if this machine was like that used in the late elections in Ontario. They had been using it back there to fix the elections and he wanted to know if this was something similar. He would like to know if this machine had been patented. If not, some other man might come forward with an "Imperial Automatic Voting Machine" and use any person into any kind of office desired. Who was to go with the voter when he went to work the "machines"? (Laughter.)

Mr. Neill said the hon. member for South Victoria had developed a surprising and unusual desire for parity in elections. He would like to ask if this machine, supposing it were introduced, would enable dead men to vote, as they had done last year, in the success of which strategy the hon. member for South Victoria was directly interested.

Mr. Eberts—I have listened with great pleasure to the cynic from Alberni. I always do listen with pleasure to the utterances of the cynical gentleman from Alberni, who never misses an opportunity of showing his nasty teeth in this

House. No, Mr. Chairman, he never loses a chance to show his nasty teeth here. And yet, sir, this is the hon. gentleman who said yesterday afternoon in the lobbies of this House something that will decidedly astonish you to hear, sir. That hon. gentleman said to me when I told him that ninety-one Canadians had been killed in South Africa—

Mr. Neill—Mr. Chairman, I protest against the introduction of them into the House. Mr. Eberts—Oh, you needn't squeal just yet—this hon. gentleman said to me, with a cynical laugh: "Well, it would teach them not to show their heady patriotism. (Great uproar, and protest) that could not be heard from Mr. Neill—Order having been restored

Mr. Neill—I could not hear distinctly what the hon. member was saying about the Canadians, but probably it was incorrect anyway.

Mr. Eberts—Listen to that, Mr. Chairman, there's the cowardly way this man conducts himself here. In one breath he attacks me in the most outrageous way, saying I put up a job to make dead men vote, and in the next he says he cannot bear something I have said, and says it is probably incorrect anyway. I say that the charge he makes that I am guilty of being acquainted with the facts in connection with the dead men voting is a lie, and further I'll tell the hon. gentleman that he is the man who is busy circulating that lie. (Uproar, and the chairman vainly rapping for order, and several members speaking at the same time.)

Mr. Eberts—Yes, I'll tell him that. Hon. Mr. Henderson—Will the hon. member for South Victoria keep on his coat and keep it buttoned? I don't think there is any occasion for the display of passion we have just had from him. He seems to have misunderstood what the hon. member for Alberni said. What he did say was that the hon. member for South Victoria was interested in the outcome of the elections in that constituency, not that he had personally taken an active part in them.

Mr. Neill—I ask the hon. member for South Victoria to withdraw the language he has seen fit to use toward me; it was not only unparliamentary, but it was not in accordance with the facts. I will repeat what I said in regard to the dead men voting. What I said was that dead men had voted in the Alberni constituency and that in that place strategy, the hon. member was directly interested.

Mr. McPhillis—I am extremely sorry that this innocent little bill of mine should be the cause of so much strife. (Laughter.) He thought that although the hon. member for Alberni made some excellent remarks he was sometimes indignant. He had just charged the hon. member for South Victoria with participating in dishonorable practices, and remarks of that kind should not be indulged in here.

The chairman said that the member for Alberni had asked that certain remarks be withdrawn. The language used—he had said the hon. member was lying—was certainly unparliamentary and should be withdrawn.

Mr. Higgins quoted from May to show that the chairman was too late, as matters dealt with in question of privilege have to be dealt with on the spot, not afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Semlin thought the member for South Victoria had entirely misunderstood what the member for Alberni had said. He had been listening very attentively to Mr. Neill, and he could say that the hon. member made no such remarks as were now attributed to him by Mr. Eberts. What he had said was that Mr. Eberts was directly interested in the outcome of the elections at that place; he said that if they were successful the gentleman opposite would have benefited by it. This was very different from saying that Mr. Eberts had personally engaged in that election. The terms used by Mr. Eberts were unnecessarily harsh, and if he had a proper sense of what was gentlemanly he would withdraw them.

Mr. Booth—What does the language of Mr. Neill mean if not what we have understood? That Mr. Eberts participated in that election?

Mr. Eberts—It is certainly astonishing to hear the Premier saying that if I was a gentleman I'd withdraw and apologize. But let me tell him that if I had heard those words come from the hon. member and had not told him on the spot that he was a liar I would not have been a gentleman. Why, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Neill) had actually risen from his place to cross the floor of the House to apologize to me.

Mr. Neill—I did not. Mr. Eberts—You didn't? Well, then, if you want to fight it out on that line I'll meet you. If he won't apologize, Mr. Chairman, I'll not.

Mr. McPhillis charged Mr. Neill with throwing his shafts.

Mr. Eberts—Quite harmless. Mr. McPhillis—Throwing his shafts into every member on this side of the House who had gone into that constituency. "We want a clean fight, as far as we know," said Mr. McPhillis.

Mr. Helmsken had been very much interested in the debate (laughter), and he thought an apology was due from a certain gentleman on the floor of the House who had spoken most disrespectfully of a person for whom they had the utmost respect, and he would ask that hon. gentleman to apologize on behalf of the dead men.

Debate Resumed.

Mr. Helmsken—Apart from the little breeze we have had, we are asked to vote on something about which we know nothing. How are we to tell whether this is not a mere gambling game? He had never heard any complaints regarding the old way of voting. He would like to know something more about this machine before he objected to it.

Mr. Jos. Martin objected strongly to the granting of anything like a monopoly to any man or company, and that was the object of this bill, as it now stood. If it passed in this form it would stamp out anything like competition, and it would be perfectly outrageous to put such a privilege in the hands of any man, or to place such legislation on the statute books.

There is a particular machine that is used for the purpose of increasing the number of votes, and it is called a "machine." If it were a good machine it would not suffer from competition, if it were not a good machine, what did the province want with it? If it were not a good machine it would be doing a great injustice to the municipalities to pass

this bill as it now stood and so foist upon them a machine that might not be a good machine.

Mr. Wells did not think it was a safe thing to vote for a monopoly and the House should be careful in regard to anything of the present kind.

Mr. Deane said he had received a letter from a gentleman in Revelstoke, stating that he had a voting machine that was superior, and cheaper, than the one the House was now considering. He thought the suggestion of Mr. Jos. Martin was most sensible, and he would vote for the amendment.

Mr. J. M. Martin could not see why the House should be tied down to buying one particular brand of machine. It would be very unwise to make any one style of machine when a better might come on the market at any time.

The committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

The Row Resumed.

Mr. Neill—May I rise to a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker? A few moments ago the hon. member for South Victoria stated, in allusion to certain remarks of mine, that I had said something to him about the Canadian contingent, and I did not at the moment catch what he said, owing to the noise in the House. I now ask the indulgence of the House.

Mr. Speaker—You cannot continue this, what takes place in committee.

Mr. Neill—But, Mr. Speaker, this is a most important statement, and I cannot allow it to go out to the province uncontradicted.

Mr. Speaker—The hon. member will have to take the regular course.

Mr. Neill—I appeal to the House.

Mr. Speaker—You must do this in the regular way.

Mr. Neill—But is it necessary in a case like this? I—

Mr. Speaker—There is no report from the committee, and I cannot allow you to depart from the regular rules of the House.

Mr. Neill—Then I'll move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Speaker—No, that cannot be done for that purpose; it must be done in the right way or not at all. The House cannot take cognizance of anything done in committee unless upon regular report.

Motions.

Mr. McPhillis asked leave to introduce a bill intitled the "British Columbia Shops Amendment Act."

Mr. Jos. Martin asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to amend chapter 43 of the Statutes of 1899, being the 'Master and Servant Amendment Act, 1899.'"

Mr. Prentice asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to amend the 'Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act, 1899.'"

All read a first time; second reading next sitting of the House.

Second Readings.

The government announced their assent to the Queen's Counsel Bill (Mr. McPhillis), and it was read a second time.

Mr. J. Martin's bill to provide for garnishee proceedings before judgment in the Surrogate Court was read a second time, but the bill introduced by Mr. McPhillis to restore the franchise to judges, civil servants and army and navy men at Esquimalt was voted down.

Hon. Mr. Semlin rising to move the second reading of the Redistribution bill said the bill was, of course, an endeavor to place in the hands of the elector power and influence in the hands of the elector of British Columbia. This, he presumed, had been the object of preceding efforts at redistribution, to which he proceeded to refer. He instanced the varying political importance of Kootenay and Cariboo, which in early days had their representatives in the House, and growth of placer industry and reduced with its wane, and proceeded in substance as follows:

"I have heard the argument advanced that although we should increase representation we should not decrease it. I have cited incidents just referred to in order to prove that former legislation did not consider it wrong, and they had to deal with the circumstances as they arose. I fancy that this argument I have referred to will be advanced by people who have been only a short time in the province and have not been acquainted with the conditions that have prevailed in former legislatures."

He then dealt briefly with early changes in the representation of Cowichan and Victoria district, and proceeded: "In the platform of the present government it was in opposition to what was considered that the distribution of cities should be guided not by population alone, not by area alone, but owing to the population, area and distance from the capital of the province. In other words, that compared with the cities there should be a representation for those who were convenient to the capital, and should be compared with ridings amongst themselves, and that there should be a third basis of representation for distant and partially settled communities in the province. These various attempts in the past have never succeeded in equalizing the vote of the country on the three bases I have indicated, but in the attempt the government has now made we can say we have come nearer to that condition than has ever been reached by former governments, and although we cannot say this is a perfect bill, it is an advance on any bill that has been submitted for the same purpose. We have done this without any reference to localities. We have endeavored to deal with British Columbia without any reference to the geographical situation."

"I have heard hon. gentlemen opposite in speaking of this bill call it a gerrymander. Well, I may say that if that term can be applied to this bill it should have been applied with far greater force to preceding bills. What is a gerrymander? As I understand it, it is when a party in power distributes the representation for the purpose of gaining support for the purpose of increasing its power. Now what has this government done in regard to this bill? We have reduced the representation of Esquimalt by one, as in earlier days Cariboo's representation was decreased by one. Esquimalt is under the control of the government for the purpose of increasing its power. It is one of those constituencies in which the population has not increased in comparison with other parts of the province. We claim that in order to equalize the voting strength in

the various ridings Esquimalt should be a member in this House on the floor of the Legislature. How is that possible? That party, friends, my hon. friends, see how we are of the party in Then you take a very nearly this party How is this party by annexing the claim that in so concerned we have the redistribution are endeavoring to equalize the ridings take the distribution There has been a large in Cariboo constituency into having a cumula is more convex their representation the Bonanza in favor of new constituency. Well, Yale and Hon. Mr. Turner.

Hon. Mr. Semlin said, but which union bill formed have not referred to have district, and on the floor of the piers for many years to reduce the representation. And why? hon. friends will I think after a while the facts that the justice to adjoint looted as a whole they about. The Yale is 620. The portion is about the result of the settled portion compare very closely give two to one only one to West, paratively no strength and no settled? True, portion of West that there are people from settle Lillooet; we are a par with some tracts. I do not mean of the north, but I because the count much the same, cultural and mining the comparison you will find that settled to one not be justified to Lillooet. I with Cariboo be much different, to be represented no injustice will be done.

"Now in regard have in that cotriely mining; at that is rapidly laid before the you as to the growth of the Kootenay, and House or this to the rapidly that country. presented; it is a itself, and we a equal treatment sentation. I thil the various distri ed by this bill, matters that h past. I have do are not depa don in the pas lowing the prec isures, and upon the lines t but are brinl justice in a have in the p ceeded in this—we have done will will comm ture, and that vote for the so ment applause."

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and so faint might not be... it was a safe... in regard to... received a let-... machine that... the one... Mr. Jos. Mar... would vote... not see why... down to buy... machine. It... start making... better might... time... reported pro-... again... a question of... few moments... south Victoria... in remarks of... thing to him... and I did... what he said... I now... House—... continue this... ker, this is a... and I cannot... vince uncon-... member will... urse... to this in the... ary in a case... report from... not allow you... rules of the... The adjourn-... cannot be done... done in the... House canning... done in lar report... have to intro-... duct Colum-... have to intro-... duct to amend... Mines Act... second reading... ed their as-... bill (Mr. ... had a second... wide for par-... judgment in... a second... by Mr. Mc-... franchise to... army and navy... ed down... to move the... tribution bill... an endeavor... qual elector... hands of each... a. This he... et of preced-... to which he... nstanced the... of Kootenay... days had... ressed with... and reduced... ed in sub-... ent advanced... erence repre-... crease it. I... referred to... legislatures... and they had... nes as they... ment I have... ed by people... e time in the... acquainted... e prevailed... with early... ion of Cow-... and pro-... if the present... if distribution... by population... out owing to... stance from... e. In other... the cities... ion for those... apital, which... things amongst... should be a... for distant... nities in the... ments in the... in equalizing... e three bases... attempt the... we can say... at condition... ed by former... e cannot... is an ad-... been submit... We have done... to localities... with British... rence to the... men opposite... it a gerry-... that if that... bill it should... greater force... is a gerry-... it, it is when... the repre-... gaining sup-... pressing its... government... ? We have... of Esquimalt... Cariboo's re-... by one. Es-... lo of the gov-... contiguous... of those con-... pulation has... with other... claim that in... strength in

the various ridings it is only just that Esquimalt should be represented by one member in this House and that one member on the floor of this House is giving Esquimalt a large percentage of representation. How are we going to gain in that particular? That is what I presume my hon. friend is referring to when they use the word gerrymander. I do not use the word here to increase the power of the party in office in this respect. Then you take our position to restore very nearly the former lines in Cowichan. How is this party to improve its position by annexing the islands to Cowichan? We have nothing to gain by the redistribution we have made. We are endeavoring to carry out the principles of equalizing votes. Then you can take the distribution upon the Mainland. There has been no change of representation in Cariboo except to separate this constituency into two ridings instead of one cumulative vote, which change is more convenient to the voters and their representatives. Then we come to the Boundary Creek, where we form a new constituency composed of a part of West Yale and Boundary Creek in Rossland.

Hon. Mr. Semlin: What is now Rossland, but which under the last redistribution bill formed part of Yale. Now I have not referred to Lillooet. That is a large district, and has been represented on the floor of the House by two members for many years past. We propose to reduce the representation to one member. And why? Here I presume my hon. friends will say the gerrymander. I think after a careful consideration of the facts that they will find this is only justice to adjoining districts. Take Lillooet as a whole, and also West Yale—that about. The voting strength of West Yale is 620. The voting strength of Lillooet is about 600, or a very small proportion in favor of West Yale. Taking the settled portions of the district, we can compare very closely. Lillooet and West Yale are two members to Lillooet and only one to West Yale, when there is comparatively no difference in the voting strength and no difference in the area settled? True, a railway traverses a portion of West Yale, but you will find that there are parts of West Yale that are more settled than parts of Lillooet. We are placing that district on a par with some of the adjoining districts. I do not compare it with population or area of Cariboo, which abuts on the north, but I have chosen West Yale because the conditions are similar. There are pastoral, agricultural and mining constituencies. Take the comparison as a whole. I think you will find that West Yale, being only entitled to one representative, we should not be justified in giving more than one to Lillooet. I do not compare it with Cariboo because the conditions are much different. We can allow Cariboo to be represented by two members and no injustice will be done to other districts.

"Now in regard to West Kootenay, we have in that community one almost entirely mining, and we have a population that is rapidly increasing. The returns laid before the House to-day will satisfy you as to the number and the rapidity of the growth of the voting strength of Kootenay, and it is impossible for this House or this country to close its eyes to the rapidly increasing importance of that country. It is a country that will assert itself, and we have endeavored to meet the requirements by increasing the representation. I think I have touched upon the various districts that are being affected by this bill, and I have referred to matters that have taken place in the past. I have done that to show that we are not introducing any novel features; we are not departing from what has been done in the past, but we are simply following the precedents set by former legislatures, and are endeavoring to work upon the lines that have been laid down, but are bringing those lines nearer to justice than the legislators were able to affect in the past. I think we have succeeded in this—I am satisfied myself that we have done so, and I hope that the bill will commend itself to the voters will vote, and that honorable members will vote for the second reading." (Government applause)

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EVENING SITTING.

Mr. Turner—Before this bill is read a second time it requires the most serious consideration. There were several points to be considered as to the bringing in of this bill. How was this bill introduced, what was it introduced for, and how did it originate? He might, in reference to the first point mentioned, why was the bill introduced so late in the time of the last session. As to the business done in the House during the session, at any rate during the last session, one of the reasons given why the late government would not admit that that government was defeated—was that the redistribution measure brought down by them had thrown them out. He had been a great deal over the country during the last year, and that was never made a question in any district which he had visited. He had visited first many important points in the Kootenays, and along the line of the C. P. R., then gone to Chilliwack and to points on the Island, and the question was certainly not made a consideration at that time. The electors in all parts of the province were much more earnest in regard to matters tending to open up and develop the country; it was not necessary here to refer to these matters again, but the charge made by the then opposition was not with regard to redistribution. The issue chosen by the opposition candidates was that the government had been very extravagant, run the country into debt and did not spend money properly, and they made many other charges which have been already referred to in the House. No member was just to the government side of the House by reason of the late Redistribution Bill. The reason this bill is brought in now is something in the nature of the charges the government had levelled at the late government. He must admit that the present government had during its tenure of office been utterly discredited in the province. He did not think there was any question about that. They need only turn to the conditions last year for proof of that, which would show that the government was not only discredited throughout the province, but was also discredited in Europe. This was owing

to the legislation passed during this parliament. It was the first time British Columbia had ever been in the position of being taunted as the province that refused to meet its obligations. That is what this discrediting amounted to, and rightly or wrongly the matter is constantly referred to to the injury of the province. In Europe and important financial centres this province is referred to as the province that repudiated its obligations. This was a very serious state of affairs. It could not fail to have the effect of injuring the credit of the province. This had been clearly demonstrated since the opening of the House, the credit of the province having decreased since that time. Last June the credit of this province was higher than that of Nova Scotia, but it is now much lower. And that was one of the reasons, or part of the reason, why this bill had been brought in. The government had run the country into a bad condition, and the people are now asking for something. But before he went on to that he would refer to the complaints that had been made at the last election. The present government had then complained as to what the late government was doing with respect to the district of Cassiar. It was only necessary now to turn to the Redistribution Bill before the House at the present time, and to note that the members who complained about what the late government was doing at that time do not complain at the present time. That very fact carried on its face the refutation of the charge made against the late government that it attempted to gerrymander the district of Cassiar. The attitude of the late government with respect to that district was perfectly correct. What the country is asking for is legislation of a character that will tend to raise the credit of British Columbia, open up and develop the country, and tend to side over the difficulties being forced upon the country by the action of the government in bringing into conflict labor and capital. Legislation that would enable the province to make progress was what the people wanted. But instead of that the government comes down with a Redistribution Bill. The people ask for bread, and the government give them a stone. That is all they have to offer in reply to the wants of the people. This Redistribution Bill, then, how was the bill brought in? When that bill was brought in the other day he had got up to speak to it and make enquiry as to the information that was to be furnished with it. But at that time a map was placed on his desk, and to his astonishment, upon investigating that map he found that it was the old map of 1898, with the old boundaries as laid out by the Legislature of that year. And that was the thing the government had placed before this House to elucidate the complicated measure which they had brought in. He had taken a pencil and gone over this map, but it was impossible to make anything definite out of it. Having been made on the lines of the old map it was most difficult to discover where the delimitations came in. Why did the government make use of this old map of 1898? The attempt to use this map to elucidate the bill they had brought in was an absurdity on the face of it. It just showed the condition of affairs; the government had no idea of bringing a Redistribution Bill; to prove this it was only necessary to turn to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech to see clearly that the government had at that time no intention of bringing in a redistribution measure. The present measure gave a member to Boundary district, a district that required a member if any district in the province did, but that was the length and breadth, and depth of this bill; there was nothing else to it.

The government this session was occupied in undoing the legislation that had been passed at the last session. He did not think that anything of importance had been passed at the present session of the House. Not a private bill had gone through; the government have depended for safety upon the casting vote of the Speaker, and they have not been able to bring in any legislation of benefit to the country, and they had thought at the last moment that this bill would save them; they would run this through the House without attracting too much attention, without making any legislation upon which to base an opinion as to the merits of the demerits of the measure.

It had been said that some people on this side of the House had described this bill as a gerrymander bill. Bills had often been described as that, and he had been the curiosity to look up the word in a dictionary, and he was much interested to find that it was originally used in the State of Massachusetts, where a bill was once brought up in the time of Governor Gerry. As that bill was the most nondescript thing that ever was seen by those parties and nobody could make head or tail of it, they called it first the Salamander Bill, the salamander being a reptile of interesting habits and varied hues. Then it came to be called, probably through the resemblance of sound to the Gerrymander Bill, and the term spread throughout the United States to signify a measure designed to make improper use of the powers of legislation. The government had not given this Redistribution Bill any title, and he did not know what sort of animal it was, or reptile, probably a centipede. (Laughter.)

This bill was brought in without information of any kind with respect to the probable number of voters in the new districts. The list of voters at the last elections would be no help whatever. Some districts are carved up so much that it is impossible to recognize them. In the Revelstoke district, for example, no doubt it had been noticed, a corner was cut off.

Mr. Kellie—Say what you said last.

Mr. Turner—Well, no matter, I'll say it again; quite a corner has been cut off because the people objected.

Mr. Kellie—Will you name the point cut off?

Mr. Turner—No, I am not going to name the point, but if the hon. gentleman will take the floor I will give way and take a rest. The hon. gentleman need not ask me for the point; he knows the district very well. I must commend him for his wisdom in cutting off that point.

The next point about the bringing in of this bill was the object. The object of it was that the government recognized that there was a demand in the province for some kind of legislation, and this is what they give the province in place of legislation. The object was to try to save the government. You know

what the position of the government is from looking at the course of events during the last few weeks. He felt sorry for the government; he knew what the position must be, hanging on by a thread, to which any member sitting on the opposite side of the House might apply the knife at any moment, and where would they be then?

Government cries of "Let her go!" and laughter.

Mr. Turner asked again where the government would be if the knife were applied? The ministers would be in the position to say with Cardinal Wolsey: "Alas! A long farewell to all my greatness." (Laughter.) They debate and attempt to carry on the business of the country and cannot bring in any other legislation but this bill in the hope that it may tide off the downfall that is before them. He did not think the country wanted redistribution at all, but legislation for opening and developing the country would be preferred to any redistribution measure forced on them by the government. The government try to force it down the electors' throats that they must have redistribution, or they will never get on. The fact is that what there had always been a fair deal in British Columbia. Though some portions were perhaps under-represented and some over-represented, at the same time those that were under-represented never had any expenditure in their district. The remotest districts were fairly treated, and had always been so far as was in the power of the government to do so. In a new country, of course, redistributions bills were wanted more often than in old and settled communities, but that was a mistake for any country to be always changing its electoral districts. One effect was to make general elections more frequent, and that had a tendency to make the representatives of the districts little more than delegates. There is some reason in having a redistribution measure in the life of the parliament of the province, that is every four years, and at the end of the present parliament, supposing the present government kept in power, they would be able to give a fair and reasonable measure of redistribution to the province. The changes in the province during the past few years had been very great, but in the next few years the changes would be even greater. Some places were being populated a few years ago, are now reduced in population, and others which were without any population at that time are now quite important places. This was especially the case in mining districts. In two years' time there would be a census of the province, and it would enable the government to gain accurate information as to the voting strength of the more distant districts, which were growing very rapidly. He pointed out that in a few years there would be a greater permanency of population in the mining regions, as the miners would bring their families and settle down there, and he held that the districts that have the largest proportion of families to the population are entitled to more representation than those who have a large number of miners, which may shift at any time. The present was a most inopportune time to introduce a measure like this. Had the government taken the proper precautions they would have been in the position to come to the House fully prepared with all necessary information, including maps and plans. As it was there was not a member in the House who could say what proportion of voters those districts had which the government proposed to gerrymander. He could not go into details of the matter, because there was no information upon which to go, and the gentlemen opposite did not know anything about the matter. He mentioned the case of Albert as an instance of a district that had been doled up to give it more than properly fell to its share.

It was curious to find that no members were taken from the districts which were supposed to be in excess. The bill, if they were all strange to say, taken from the districts believed to be in favor of the opposition. But they could hardly blame the government, they were in a desperate position, and had to do something. There was no information in the bill in the hope that they would get a few more members on that side of the House. But they would find themselves grievously mistaken. The people were not to be taken with any such chaff as that.

How did this bill originate? The other side of the government had no idea of bringing in a redistribution bill, but a certain gentleman who had formerly been a supporter of that government had asked them to bring in a measure of that kind, and a Redistribution Bill has been brought in. The leader of the government is in reality on this side of the House. The measure was not brought in at the request, but at the demand of that gentleman; at his command it was introduced, and is to be rushed forward. There could be no doubt about it, he was the master of the Assembly. There were many reasons why this redistribution bill was introduced. It was brought in and one of these was in connection with the treatment of certain cities of the province with respect to the voters' lists. That was a very serious charge to bring against any government. He referred to the purging of the lists of Vancouver city, Victoria and other cities, and said it was a legal question if anything can be done to have those voters' lists properly dealt with. Large numbers of voters, some of whom had resided here and in other cities of the province affected by this action of the government, were excluded from those lists. It was found impossible to get their names on. He himself had had the greatest difficulty in doing so. A friend had telegraphed to him in London, and he had sent out the necessary application. Many people who had gone to Atlin had been swept off the roll in Victoria. Mr. Turner was sure that he had him in that statement. In the circumstances it was most unfair for the government to bring in a measure of this kind for which they were not in any way prepared. The position of the government at the present time did not warrant them in bringing in a bill that could hardly get anything through the House; they tremble at every vote. (Government members: Hear, hear.)

Mr. Turner—Well, it's the fact. When you go in you don't know whether you'll ever come out. They shake to think what may happen at any moment, when they may find themselves gone up, into the soup. (Laughter.) It was impossible to do such a government to bring

The Way to be Well.

If you are ill it is not you alone who suffer, but those who depend upon you, those to whom you are dear—whether you are a man or a woman. The worst diseases in the world are slight ailments at first. If you are feeling weak, nervous or run down—if you are at all unwell, take

DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS for PALE PEOPLE

and be made bright, active and strong. Recommended by the liberal minded doctor and the trained nurse. But you must get the genuine—substitutes never cured anyone.

CONSTANT FEELING OF LASSITUDE.

From Parruboro, N.S. Leader.

There is scarcely a man, woman or child in the busy mining town of Springhill, N. S., who does not know Mr. Moses Y. Boss, the trusty agent of A. R. Fulton, dealer in carriages and farm implements. Two years ago the writer first met Mr. Boss, and was struck with the extreme pallor of his countenance. He seemed, in fact, like one in the deadly grip of consumption. Recently business again brought him to the home of the writer, but a remarkable change for the better had taken place in the interval. Upon enquiry it was learned that falling illness first induced Mr. Boss to go upon the road as a salesman in the hope that a change of scene would be beneficial. The result, however, did not meet with his expectations. The food he ate distressed him, and the weakness and feeling of lassitude became intensified. To use his own words, he was so weak and nervous, and used up, that he felt that he "could have dropped down and gone to sleep anywhere." Driving tired him and when at home the slightest labor about his farm was irksome. He was in this hopeless and discouraged condition when a friend recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. He decided to try one box, and before they were gone he found some benefit from them. He then bought four boxes more, and each week found an improvement in his condition. His stomach ceased to trouble him, the feeling of lassitude troubled him no more, and his labors were no longer irksome. By the time he had finished his fifth box, his health was fully restored, and has since continued to be excellent, and he is not backward in telling his friends the sterling worth of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

The Genuine are sold only in Packages like the engraving. WRAPPER PRINTED IN RED. TRADE MARK DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE REGISTERED

At all dealers, or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.

such a measure as this which proposes to sweep away some representatives, and to carve up others to suit themselves. They knew very well that this bill was meant to create certain little pocket boroughs, he need not name them; the government thought they knew of certain places in the province which they considered they could comfortably put in their pockets. There was another important thing he had noticed in connection with this bill, and it was something which had been apparent in the conduct of the present government from the beginning. He referred to the fact that agricultural matters were totally ignored. He noticed this with regret, and he wished to call attention to it; for the first time in many years there had been no mention of the agricultural interests of the province in the speech from the throne at the opening of the House this session. But it would be a very difficult matter to ignore the great agricultural interests of the province of British Columbia. A number of years ago he had brought in a bill relating to agriculture, and he was somewhat ridiculed, but to-day there was a very different feeling in regard to that. The Dairying Bill, the Farmers' Institutes Bill and other important measures proved the immense strides which agriculture was taking in the province. It was easy for any one to see the enormous attention that is now paid to this great section, and he was glad to see that the government was turning out more butter than was required for home consumption, and would be able to export some of it. Yet this government during its life had done absolutely nothing for agriculture, and it had thereby placed itself in a very poor position in the eyes of the people, who were taking out the wealth of the country and sending it out of the province, the agriculturist continually adds to the value of the country by his labors, making it more and more valuable every day. But the government totally ignored the great agricultural interests of the province by taking away no fewer than three members from the agricultural districts. This was not right to an industry that was doing perhaps more than any other to build up the best prosperity of the province, and certainly was adding to the happy homes in British Columbia. No wonder the country had no confidence in this government, and the House had none either in them. Perhaps, though, they were not so much to blame after all, perhaps they could not help themselves; the bill was brought in by authority. They were caught in a trap, the richest and most populous sections of the province. The gentleman opposite had said that the government had been forced to bring in this bill for their own salvation; he would say again that the bill had been well considered for some time past, and the government felt as the opposition would agree if honest—that a good measure had been devised. The opposition speakers had said that the government had been caught in a Martin trap. (Laughter.) He had only to say that those Martin traps were very slick propositions, and would only advise the leader of the opposition that he would do well to look out lest he too be caught in the same

who had in the past sent him to the legislature—

"I never said so," observed Mr. Turner, "I made no reference to you whatsoever."

Mr. Kellie had interpreted his remarks as being addressed to him, and reminded the opposition that they had much the same sort of remarks to make in 1898, when they had declared that he would not come back to the House. Yet he had come back, and with a big majority.

The weakness of the opposition leader's criticism was interpreted by the member for Revelstoke as showing that with every desire to find faults in the bill, he discovered that it was a very difficult task to do so. Without reflecting in any way upon the districts he thought that if any speck could be cast upon pocket boroughs, Esquimalt with its 300 or so live voters and 200 dead men could not escape attention. This redistribution measure had been described as an ill-considered bill forced from the government by the motion of the third member for Vancouver. He could tell the House that it was not unconsidered. It had been under careful consideration for a considerable time. The opposition had said that the government was hanging by a thread. He would be honest. He would admit that the government was existing by a very narrow majority. It was therefore all the more right that this bill should be passed and an appeal be made to the people.

Opposition voices—Is that a declaration?

Mr. Kellie replied that it was a declaration so far as he himself was concerned. As soon as the bill was named he intended to go before his constituency, and give the electors there an opportunity of saying whether or not they desired to have him continue as their representative. It had been said that he wanted to have Nelson cut off his district. That district had had so many slices cut from it that it could scarcely be recognized. Yet it continued to grow in wealth and population. West Kootenay, he informed the House, had saved the province from financial ruin, and the time would come ere long when the West Kootenay districts would be turning out \$50,000,000 of ore a year. (Applause.) It was one of the greatest and grandest mining districts on the face of the American continent. If the leader of the opposition intimated that a pocket borough was being created there he was hurling in the most deadly insult on one of the richest and most populous sections of the province. The gentleman opposite had said that the government had been forced to bring in this bill for their own salvation; he would say again that the bill had been well considered for some time past, and the government felt as the opposition would agree if honest—that a good measure had been devised. The opposition speakers had said that the government had been caught in a Martin trap. (Laughter.) He had only to say that those Martin traps were very slick propositions, and would only advise the leader of the opposition that he would do well to look out lest he too be caught in the same

Martin trap. (Laughter.) The member for Revelstoke closed with a declaration that the great district of West Kootenay was contributing one-third of the revenue of the province, while possessing one-third of the population; it was not asking too much therefore to insist upon six members being given to this most important section.

Mr. McPhillips said that he had been very much astonished to hear Mr. Kellie state that redistribution was one of the planks in the platform of the government. It was of the opinion that the government had forgotten all the planks that they ever professed to have in their platform; it was surprising that they only introduced this as a plank in their platform when things had reached the acute stage, and when they thought that they would have to go before the electors; they thought that they would be before them with such changes as would ensure their return to power. Why had they not referred to this matter on the 4th January. In the speech from the throne, why was it not stated then that this was to be one of the planks in the government platform? Now, forthwith, this matter was of such importance that the whole of the business of the country was to be laid aside and this measure forced through without any regard to the private bills, or public bills and the business of the country at large. Why they had been driven to this by one member—the third member for Vancouver. That gentleman had made a motion to this effect, and though the Premier would not accept that motion, he had simply moved an amendment and then allowed the hon. member to dominate the policy of the government. Now, forthwith, this matter was of such importance that the whole of the business of the province were losing ground, the revenue had depreciated. Who was to blame for that? He had no hesitation in saying that the government was the responsible party. In all such emergencies, as the present one, it would be found under the British flag that before such a motion was entertained by any parliament, the government had made some statement to the House that they intended to appeal to the people as soon as the bill might pass. In the action which the government now contemplated they were receding to the best traditions of responsible government. It was quite surprising to see the change of front of the hon. gentlemen. If the Premier would rise in his seat and give the House a formal assurance that the government had intended to appeal to the country at once, then, although this measure might not be one in the best interests of the country, he, for one, would be prepared, after due consideration, to record it some measure of support. But why was not the House to be taken into the confidence of the government in this matter? Again, he could reiterate that if the Premier would rise in his seat and give members formal notice that an election was impending—then he would give the matter full and fair consideration. It should, however, be remembered that the duty before them was quite insufficient for the proper consideration of such grave matter as this. The fact of the matter

Murdered at Selkirk

News of Another Yukon Tragedy Received—A Fabulously Rich Claim.

Two Hundred Dollars to the Pan-Road House Burned Down.

A correspondent, writing from Fort Selkirk to the Yukon Sun, under date of February 25th, says: A man named Chas. Hill gave himself up to the police about 10 p.m. on Saturday, having shot and killed his partner, John Blair, claiming that trouble originated over a dog, and says his partner started after him with a gun, shooting first. Hill started running and got behind a pair of bob-sleds from which he fired the fatal shot. The shooting occurred at a fish camp on a small lake about 50 miles up the Pelly river. An Indian woman living with him was the only witness of the shooting. Constable Tuttle and one civilian started on Sunday morning to bring in the body. A request will be held as soon as they return.

A man named Leclair brought up from Stewart, apparently insane, will be examined by the doctor.

Dr. Madore, assistant surgeon N. W. M. P., was called to Big Salmon to attend Constable Tyrrell, who was badly frozen some time ago.

A Midas Warehouse. A story of sensational proportions, and which would ordinarily receive no attention, was related to a Sun reporter under such circumstances as to admit of no doubt of its reliability, says the Yukon Sun of Feb. 26th. As, however, it was told in confidence, and the interested parties are desirous of avoiding publicity, the names must be withheld.

On a claim within five miles of Grand Forks, owned in part by one of Dawson's best known and most successful operators, the workmen recently tapped a deposit of gravel so rich in gold as to fairly startle them. Pans running up into hundreds of dollars were quite common, and for depth of two feet—one foot of gravel and one of bedrock—it is liberally asserted that \$200 per pan, on the average, is no overstatement; and in addition to all this, two or three feet more of gravel runs so high in gold as not to materially reduce the average on the whole. So overwhimpering was the effect of this find upon the men working the claim that they quit work and telegraphed to the principal owner, who was, at the time, on the outside, to come in and give the work of taking out this deposit his personal supervision.

While this phenomenal strike is of comparatively recent occurrence, the claim has long been known to be a very rich one. Some months ago the owner imparted to his confidential adviser and friend the results of a test made by him. Out of curiosity he spigoned a man on a spot known to be very rich, and instructed him to move as fast as possible during one entire day; the result was about \$25,000 in ten hours.

The foreman of the work is authority to the Sun's informant for the statement that the clean-up of one day of nine hours, when 11 men were employed, yielded nearly \$20,000. And that another day, the work of 13 men for ten hours, resulted in a yield of over \$25,000. What the result will be when active work is prosecuted at the point where \$200 per pan is the rule would not be difficult to calculate, but so sensational would seem the result that we prefer to let our readers make their own estimates. At some future time, having obtained the consent of the interested parties, we may have the satisfaction of laying before our readers all the facts with every essential detail. For the present we can only reiterate that the story emanates from most reliable sources and is told in all soberness. The statement of facts given is deemed absolutely veracious.

Road House Burnt. A complete gutting of Mr. Verge's (late Yukon Field Force) road-house took place at Indian River on Friday night, Feb. 2nd. The trouble appears to have arisen through someone lading a cup of oil from an open tin of the same, under the impression that it was water, and then throwing it into a mass of dog feed on the stove. Water was thrown on the mess, but that only spread the fire, and although four men worked hard to save the building, nothing remains, but the charred logs. The loss comes heavy on Mr. Verge, who has just been married a month. His place was situated about two miles above the Indian River road-house.

A Good Showing. It is understood a rich strike has been made on the Yellow Jacket, one of Lord Hamilton's bonded properties on Pine creek, says the Atlas-Claim of Feb. 10th. Enquiry at the office of the secured notice of the company in Atlas secured no confirmation of the report, however.

This property, or more correctly speaking, properties, for it includes the Yellow Jacket extension, was bonded last fall. The duration of the bond was nine months. The company during this period have spent a large amount of money in prospecting and developing the ground, erecting suitable bunk-houses, sinking shafts and running several crosscuts.

A force of eight men has been employed steadily around the works, and it is understood a very rich and highly satisfactory strike was made recently in the tunnel that is being pushed across Pine creek at a depth of 40 feet. A large body of decomposed quartz was here encountered showing specks of shotty gold all through the lode.

Jack Perkinson, "Big Jack," as he is known in Atlas, is interested in the Yellow Jacket. He arrived from Dawson last Monday and his camp here at this particular period is for the purpose of closing the deal with the bonders of the property. He left for Skagway on Wednesday to meet one of his partners, also interested, and on his arrival back he will be in a position to close the sale of the property. The figure is a large one.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE Held at the Drill Hall in Memory of the Fallen Soldiers.

Several thousand citizens attended the drum-head service held at the drill hall yesterday afternoon in memory of the late members of the regiment who were killed in action on a South African battlefield. Early in the afternoon Government street was black with people waiting their way over the Bay, and when the service began the hall was crowded to the doors. The regiment was drawn up in a hollow square, and in the square a drum lay on the floor—a pulpit for the chaplain, Rev. C. Ennor Sharp. The service was begun with the singing of the hymn written by the sister of General Hildyard to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers." The band accompanied the singing. Then there was a prayer, a portion of the burial service, by the chaplain, and then all present joined in the singing of another hymn, after which the chaplain preached a memorial service in which he said in part: This patriotic differs from other parades held in this drill hall, in that we are here to-day to lament the death of those who have died many thousand miles away fighting for their country. We are here to lament our fallen comrades who went from here full of life and brightness, fully expecting to come back. But they took a soldier's chance. So great is the hope that springs up in every human breast, that although everyone knew there might be some bullet to end his career, yet each thought that it might be for another and not for him. The thought that those who had fallen honorably and gloriously on the field helps somewhat to brighten the bereavement. Although they were ordinary men like ourselves, they have been noble and heroic in the manner in which they have met death. We, who knew them, will never forget them. As long as the British Empire remains a fabric, so long will they form a part of that building. These lives have been ennobled by their deaths, and from them we should all learn the lesson of what we ought to do at the call of duty and the call of our Queen. Of the fallen men there was one who was well known to all, whose name was known throughout the Dominion as an athlete. He no longer will join you in your drills and pleasures. As we think of them, we wonder what it is that induces men like them to run such risks. We have known men risk their lives in the search for gold, known them to starve and suffer misery and privation in the hope of coming back with riches, but there was no money to be gained by the risks they ran. Some will say, perhaps, that it was for glory that they went, but in all of that 120,000 the chances for individual glory would not be large. Some will say that it was in the hope of winning the Victoria Cross, but we cannot think it was all for glory. Some will say it was for pleasurable excitement because of the fighting instinct. Perhaps in a measure it was, but I take it, it was patriotism. Take this word patriotism, what does it mean? Patriotism is love of the land, and in this word father lies the whole thing. In their conspious they went to fight for the father. In their going they showed self-denial, self-sacrifice, but to them it was duty. They died like men and soldiers, having done their duty.

After the singing of the National Anthem the service ended.

THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE. Bright's Disease and Kidney Kidney Troubles Have Lost Their Terrors—South American Kidney Cure Wages a Successful War.

A young man studying for the ministry, and the son of a well known Western merchant, dropped into a drug store, and in a very discouraged mood said to the proprietor, "I am quitting my studies and going home to I know not what. My physician says I have Bright's Disease and cannot pursue my studies." That druggist knew from experience the almost miraculous cure in his own case made by South American Kidney Cure. He recommended it to the young man and in less than a month he was back to his studies again—a perfectly cured man. South American Kidney Cure is a liquid kidney specific.

Sold by Deann & Hisecks and Hall & Co. To get relief from indigestion, biliousness, constipation or torpid liver without disturbing the stomach or purging the bowels, take a few doses of Carter's Little Liver Pills.

B.B.B. A Great Healer. If you've never applied Burdock Blood Bitters to a cut or wound, sore or ulcer, just try it and see what soothing, healing, cleansing power it possesses.

It takes out itching, stinging and burning, and promotes the growth of healthy flesh. So, too, when taken internally, by its power of eliminating all impurities from the blood and making that vital fluid rich, red and pure, it cuts off the origin and source of the foul matter that goes to make boils, pimples, sores, ulcers, eruptions, cancers, tumors and the like, and at the same time the purified and enriched blood creates healthy tissue where there was formerly, perhaps, a suppurating sore.

Mrs. J. H. Davis, Sydney, Man., writes: "I used Burdock Blood Bitters for a running sore on my ankle, which began to spread until I could hardly walk. I applied some of the B.B.B. to the sore as well as took it internally, and by the time I had finished two bottles the sore had healed up and my ankle got perfectly well."

GENERAL COMMITTEE Meet and Decide That the Question of Revenue Shall Be Reconsidered—General Discussion.

A meeting of the Sorby harbor committee was held in the city hall yesterday afternoon, when, among other things, it was decided that the sub-committees on real estate and revenue should hold a joint session in the near future, and report to the full committee at the earliest possible date. The reports submitted by the sub-committees were referred to them in order that those portions of the scheme coming under their investigation might receive their careful joint consideration. There were present Mayor Hayward in the chair, A. J. Yates, Cooker, Brydon and Messrs. C. A. Holland, B. W. Pearce, T. B. Hall, Mr. Sorby and Clerk W. J. Dowler.

After the ordinary formalities the mayor explained the object of the meeting, pointing out incidentally the importance of fully considering the question of revenue as concerned in the scheme. Mayor Hayward, in the course of his remarks, directed attention to the discrepancy between Mr. Sorby's estimate of the revenue and the sub-committee investigating this matter. Mr. Sorby's estimate was \$95,000 and the committee's \$79,000, a deficiency of \$16,000.

Ald. Brydon reminded the mayor that the sub-committee were appointed specially to check Mr. Sorby's estimate by an approximate calculation. Mr. Sorby explained wherein lay the discrepancy, quoting statistics to bear out his calculations. The sub-committee had based their estimate on a calculation on 171,700 tons, while his figures showed a total tonnage of 174,732.

In speaking for the real estate committee, Mr. C. A. Holland pointed out that the members had based their calculations under existing circumstances. They had not borne in mind the provision that the lessee would not retain the wharfage when they made the estimate.

Mr. Pearce remarked that as the case now stood the sub-committee made one calculation, Mr. Sorby another, while the disinterested gentlemen made a third. He suggested that the latter be asked to forward their representations to the committee in order that they might be fully and carefully investigated.

Mr. Yates reminded the preceding speaker that these gentlemen had already explained their attitude at the recent conference. He suggested that a meeting of the two sub-committees be held in the immediate future, to get carefully into all the estimates, for he understood that Mr. Shallicross had stated that if the various committees on careful investigation approved the scheme he would consent to the borings.

After some further discussion, it was decided that the two previous reports from the sub-committee on real estate and revenue be referred back to them sitting jointly, for the purpose of the general committee without delay. It was also decided to appoint Mr. F. B. Pemberton to the engineering sub-committee, Mr. James Ward to that on real estate and Mr. W. A. Ward to that on revenue and revenue, provided these gentlemen were available.

Ald. Yates raised the question regarding the position in which Mr. D. R. Harris was placed. His tender for the borings had been accepted, and he was supposed to have commenced last Monday, and would be away for the purpose, paying \$10 per day.

Mr. T. B. Hall favored having the borings made as soon as possible, as it would give information as to the formation of the harbor, which would be useful, whether the tender of the committee was favorable or not.

Ald. Brydon asked if it was wise to wait for the committee's report, and he advised that something be done in the "water very soon, or the end of the Dominion parliament session would be at hand before they were aware, and then in the rush the scheme would meet with no consideration at all.

After a little further discussion the meeting was adjourned.

FROM SAANICH. Contributions to the London Mansion House Fund Amount to Over Four Hundred and Fifty Dollars.

The following amounts were collected by the Saanich committee for the Mansion House fund: From sale of concert tickets \$224.50; Collections at concert \$19.90; Subscriptions \$244.20.

Total receipts \$488.60. There were paid out as follows: Advertising in papers \$19.00; Tickets and postage \$7.25; Piano rent \$6.00; Meals, fares and lodgings to minstrel troupe from H. M. S. Leander \$12.75.

Total expenditures \$38.00. Net balance \$450.60, \$459.90 which has been remitted to the honorable treasurer, the Lord Mayor of London, Eng. (Signed) H. O. SHELLTON, Treas. Saanich M. H. P. Com.

The following is the subscription list: A. Friend, \$20; W. Le Poer French, \$5; Fred. Turgoose, \$5; H. C. Shekton, \$5; B. A. Huggard, \$5; J. J. White, \$5; John Camp, \$10; C. F. Walker, \$5; R. M. Stewart, \$2.50; H. E. Danner, \$2.50; A. E. McLean, \$2.50; John Sluggatt, \$5; W. W. Young, \$5; Julius Brecher, \$2.50; O. T. McLennan, \$1; X. Marcotte, \$2; A. Royard, \$1; R. C. Pope, \$1; J. Walker, \$1; Henry Simpson, \$3; F. G. Christmas, \$3; W. Thompson, \$5; Michel and Son, \$5; Geo. Lester, \$1; Geo. Cawthra, \$1; H. White, \$1; Mr. Knowles, \$5; D. Hammond, \$1; W. Simpson, \$2.50; Royal Bazaar Perceptory No. 538, \$10; Adam Ross, \$5; P. Musgrave, \$2.50; Fred Laughton, \$2.50; Alex. Wright, \$5; W. R. Armstrong, \$2.50; Miss Bonn, \$2; F. G. Norris, \$2.50; J. Critchey, \$2.50; B. John, \$2; Mark Howe, \$1; T. Ommersbach, \$2; J. Vinn, \$2; H. Melmoyr, \$2; A. Deacon, \$2; J. Wesley Brethour, \$2.50; Thos. Harrison, \$2; Chas. Melmoyr, \$2; S. Sandover, \$2; A. J. Birgust, \$2; Hy. Brethour, \$2.50; F. Dickson, \$1; Capt. John Smith, \$1; Hugh Moore, \$1; T. Hendrickson, \$1; L. Herber, \$1; S. Brethour, \$1; A. Loyal Mite, \$2; G. B. Dyne, \$1; Mr. McKay, \$5; W. Lidgate, \$2; Henry Wain, \$2; W. Wain, \$2.50; R. Horth, \$2.50; J. J. Downey, \$5; Wm. Towler, \$10; S. O. Cadman, \$2.50; W. Lennen, \$1; Ina Bell, \$5; Mr. John

MINERS' WAGES. (Special to the Times).

Nanaimo, Feb. 24.—Passengers from Union state that the miners there are contemplating asking for a 25 per cent. raise in wages. A meeting was held last Sunday to discuss the matter, and a greater number of those present seemed to favor such a move. Action was deferred and a second meeting will be held to-morrow, to still further consider the step.

Jonathan Vipon, a young man employed as a male driver in Protection Island shaft, was caught between a coal car and a prop while at work in the mine last evening. He remained in an unconscious condition for some time after being taken out, but his injuries, though painful, will not prove fatal.

A well attended concert was given here last evening for the benefit of Mrs. Zely, widow of one of the men drowned two weeks ago. Over \$250 net was realized.

The death occurred at Jubilee Hospital on the 19th inst. of Levi Harwood, aged 31. The deceased, who was a native of Cumberland, Eng., has been in this province for six years, four of which were spent at Work Point barracks. He was a gunner in the R.M.A. In "the big international tug-of-war of four years ago he was anchor man of his team. The funeral will take place shortly from Hanna's undertaking parlors.

The dinner which was to have been given on Wednesday evening last by the natives of the Eastern provinces resident in Victoria and which was postponed on account of the resignation of the Victoria boys who had fallen in Sunday's fight will be held on Thursday evening next at the same place. While the committee regret that the dinner had to be postponed, it is hoped that the attendance on Thursday evening next will not be affected by this necessary deferring of the date of meeting.

Hon. Fred. Peters, on the invitation of the Young Men's Liberal Club, addressed a large audience in Pioneer hall on Saturday evening. The speaker dealt with the necessity of preparation for the approaching Dominion general elections, and with the record of the Liberal government since it attained power in 1896. Messrs. Booth, McKechnie, Deane, D. Millie and Senator Templeman also spoke briefly.

The death occurred at the family residence, 134 Chatham street, on the 26th inst. of Harriet, wife of John Pearce, in her 80th year. Deceased was a native of Wiltshire, England, and was one of the pioneers of the province, having accompanied her husband to Cariboo in 1863, and remained there until the following year. After a successful career in that district her husband, Mr. John Pearce, acquired some valuable advancing years compelled the aged couple to seek retirement in their comfortable home in Victoria. They have no children living. The funeral takes place on Wednesday, the 27th inst., from the family residence, at 2:30 p.m.

DOMINION HOUSE. Sir Charles Tupper Again Refers to Affairs in the Yukon. (Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Feb. 26.—In the House today Sir Charles Tupper called attention to affairs in the Yukon. His excuse being that Hon. C. Sifton was leaving to-morrow for England, and he wanted to hear what the minister had to say before he left. Sir Charles Tupper's great burden of complaint was that ten per cent. royalty was not done away with. He quoted Walsh and Cook as being against the royalty. He also said that business was at a standstill, and the population reduced from 30,000 to 4,000, on account of mismanagement and the royalty imposed. "No other country would adopt such a policy against prospectors."

The accommodation of the two local steamers, Alpha and Annet, advertised to sail for Cape Nome, is being fast taken up. All the steamers berthed at the Pacific Coast ports from here to San Francisco, in fact, seem to be filling up with freight and passengers for the North, and unlike the Dawson rush, the greater portion of the travellers are booking first-class passages. The San Francisco Chronicle says: "The rush for Cape Nome promises to be even larger than that for Dawson in its earliest days. The demand for freight and passenger accommodations is enormous. Even now, a month and a half before the first steamer will start Northward, nearly all the passenger accommodations in sight have been taken up. After the middle of March it is likely that freight and passenger rates will be doubled. The Alaska Exploration Company has sold the passenger accommodations on the steamship Zambada, with the exception of about thirty berths, and about 100 freight berths. Besides, the company has a fleet of about eight sailing ships, which will sail next month. The brig John D. Spreckels may be purchased by the company, and it has in its consists of class with wire netting worked in, which acts in such a manner as to provide against breaking, and was obtained in San Francisco by the architect, Mr. John Teague. The operations are under the superintendence of Mr. J. G. Brown.

(From Monday's Daily.) The death occurred at the residence, 69 Carr street, yesterday, of Gordon Stevenson, father of Mr. W. Stevenson, proprietor of Delmonico. Deceased was

900 DROPS CASTORIA. Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS CHILDREN. Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC. A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness, and Loss of Sleep. For Simile Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson NEW YORK. 116 months old 35 Doses—35 CENTS. EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA. Dr. J. C. Watson IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA. Castoria is put up in one-size bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C-A-S-T-O-R-I-A. The Simile Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson is on every wrapper.

BIRTHS. CREERY—On the 22nd inst., the wife of A. McC. Creery, Beach avenue, Vancouver, at a son.

REYNOLDS—On the 23rd Jan., in Parian, Mexico, William E. Reynolds, a native of Victoria, B. C., aged 23.

BIRTHS. HUMPHREYS—At Nelson, B. C., on Feb. 22nd, the wife of Thomas Stanley Humphreys (nee Ross), of a daughter.

WIDDICOMBE—On the 20th inst., at 908 Denman street, Vancouver, the wife of H. T. Widdicombe, of a son.

MARRIED. EVERLIGH-SOUTHCOOT—On the 21st inst., at the residence of the bride's parents, 721 Richards street, Vancouver, by the Rev. J. Herbert Britton, M. A., Sydney Morgan, Eveligh to Florence, eldest daughter of J. J. Southcott.

DIED. PARKES-GRAY—At Christ Church, Vancouver, on Feb. 25th, by Rev. L. Norman Tucker, Alfred Henry Parkes and Miss Jessamine Freeman Gray.

DIAMOND-LEAMY—At Adams street, New Westminster, on Feb. 21st, by Rev. Father Morgan, J. H. Diamond and Ursula, daughter of Mrs. James Leamy, Dominion Crown Timber Agent.

DIED. M'KEATING—At Mount Pleasant, Vancouver, on Feb. 19th, Miss Lizzie M'Keating.

YATES—At Edinburgh, Scotland, on the 23rd February, 1900, James Yates, aged 81 years.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. CURE SICK HEAD ACHE. Rich Headache and relieve all the troubles that attend a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Stomach, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing SICK HEADACHE, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing that annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cure SICK HEADACHE, they are worth trying.

Doek's Cotton Boot Compound. It is successfully used monthly by over 1,000 Ladies. Safe, certain. Ladies ask your druggist for Doek's Cotton Boot Compound. Take no other, as all mixtures, plasters and ointments are dangerous. Price, No. 1 per box, No. 2, 30 degrees stronger, \$5 per box. No. 1 or 2, mailed on receipt of price and two 8-cent stamps. The Doek Company Windsor, Ont. Doek's No. 1 and 2 sold and recommended by all responsible druggists in Canada.

APIOL & STEEL PILLS FOR LADIES. A REMEDY FOR IRREGULARITIES. Superfeding Bitter Apple, Fil Coccha, Pennyroyal, &c. Order of all chemists, or post free for \$1.50 from EVANS & SONS, LTD., Victoria. M. MARTIN, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Southampton, Eng.

19 against the government. announced the bill followed by the opposition galleries, the being kept up for it is only right this House adjourned till 2 that the day be the day he agreed to. leader of the management could private bills, assurance that by the govern. at. 4:20 p.m. ceing from all adjournment a tion took place and Jos. Maring the latter of erting the party to this Mr. Mar and for a few seemed immitately averted. STATES. an interesting on of the United Japanese popula- you may like are taken from of the World, the figures are Canada's Chinese re not given, the States get-up. ED BURNETT. d that in the a population of are less Chinese ria, and a good population of over H. B. No. Chl. No. Jap- nese. 48 3 1,170 1 32 218 72,472 1,147 1,338 10 272 18 37 0 91 9 108 14 108 8 2,007 0 740 14 92 18 0 0 3 94 3 94 28 3 283 39 73 7 884 18 129 38 140 2 407 6 2,332 6 214 1 2,833 8 58 2 608 22 361 3 2,965 148 32 1 28 1 64 1 25 10 9,540 25 1,146 32 69 5 34 177 0 0 51 6 710 3 768 9 32 1 55 16 3,249 360 15 3 465 0 D. & L. Menthof backache, sed- ictor than any vis & Lawrence ru iron say that the more costly the cities, will for the most tri- of structural the beams that Steel Brick rable, econo- vering. ghining proof er's cold and ighly handsome most easily e. irable for use ings. ted. D. Limited LING AGENT.

Political Situation

Rumors of the Lobbies, Corridors and Streets on the New Crisis.

Many Names Suggested For the Premiership—The Case of Mr. Neil

A representative of the Times called upon His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor this morning with regard to the political situation, but His Honor had nothing whatever to say on the matter. Throughout the city scarcely anything else was talked about even the war, for the time being having dropped pretty much out of sight. Names of prominent men were freely mentioned as probable successors to the present Premier, but in none of those cases could any substantial foundation be had upon which to support the use of the name. Last evening it was freely rumored about the streets and in the clubs that Mr. James Dunsmuir would be called in. Some were found to credit this.

Coalition is, of course, also suggested, and the name most frequently heard in this connection is that of Mr. H. Dalrymple, who it is thought might be able to form an administration from the present membership of the House by bringing Mr. Cotton or some of the present ministers into the cabinet. This would tide matters over for the present at least and obviate an appeal to the country.

This morning the name most freely coupled with the leadership is that of Mr. Jos. Martin, though some very well-informed critics of the political situation scout the notion. It may be of considerable interest to learn that the name of Mr. Edgar Dewdney, the late Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, is also "in the air" to a considerable extent at the present time in connection with the premiership. Of course not a few put forward the name of the leader of the opposition, but even amongst his own supporters there is little disposition to expect any such luck. According to ordinary usage the choice might have been expected to fall upon Mr. Turner, but in the circumstances it is very generally agreed about town that such a thing is practically an impossibility.

For the present it is all speculation and rumor and nobody knows one particular more about the matter than the next man—who knows nothing. The persons mentioned will not utter a syllable one way or the other; therefore the difficulty of arriving at anything like a definite view of the probabilities is materially increased.

At the House.

Most of the forenoon the legislative chamber looked as if the government was in session with the Speaker temporarily absent. On both sides of the House members sat in groups conversing about the latest turn in events; and the government and opposition members were not at all particular as to which side they were in. Some of the government sat in the late evening's camp, while the opposition had a strong representation among the government benches. All seemed to take the matter very quietly, and the discussion was as unanimated as if the subject were merely the rise or fall of the market.

Most of the members were quite willing to talk about the situation, provided no names were mentioned; but even amongst them the same indefiniteness as to the future prevailed. Some thought one man had a better chance than another and nobody was certain of anything except that the end had come, and not unexpectedly.

Next Week.

It is generally understood that the House will continue business on the private bills next week. A government though defeated may carry on the business of the country with the consent of the opposition; and as far as could be gathered to-day there will be no objection from the opposition to this being done. In fact the last thing done in the House yesterday was a request by Mr. Turner to the Premier that this be done, and an assurance from the Premier to Mr. Turner that the matter would not be forgotten.

Did He Do It?

By whatever means the matter was brought to a head yesterday afternoon, one thing is certain, and that is that Mr. Jos. Martin is generally credited with having engineered the coup. Whether he did or not is the probability. It was observed that just as Mr. Turner was withdrawing his amendment, information satisfactory to him having been brought in by the government and was thus smoothing the way for the passage of the bill, Messrs. Hall, Jos. Martin and Prentice entered the House and took their seats, looking as if they had something, if not exactly up their sleeves, at least as if they knew something the other members were not thoroughly familiar with. Mr. Hall rose immediately after Mr. Turner sat down, but he had not his lesson by heart, for he had to put it twice before he got it off straight. This was the previous question. There was no uncertainty about Mr. Prentice's elevation of his voting hand; it went up like a "present arms" both for the previous question and the main question.

Mr. Prentice.

Rival to Mr. Jos. Martin, in popular opinion as the "winner" of the battle yesterday, is the member of East Lillooet. Some of the members on the government side spoke somewhat unadmirably regarding Mr. Prentice this morning, freely alleging that he had not given altogether a square deal to his own side, and that a different course of a more definite kind would perhaps have rebounded more to his political reputation. Flat-footed one way or other, "agin the government" or for it, they say, was the proper case for Mr. Prentice, not the balance seat. These are merely quota-

tions from criticisms passed upon him by those who ought to know something about the matter.

Another Rumor.

This afternoon a rumor gained considerable ground amongst those discussing parliamentary affairs in the city, to the following effect: That His Honor would call upon Mr. Maxwell, M. P., to form a cabinet, that he would choose Mr. W. W. B. Melanes, M. P., as Attorney-General, and that Mr. Jos. Martin would take Mr. Maxwell's seat in the Dominion House. This rumor was actually discussed by some members of the House.

Mr. Neil's Case.

When a Times reporter asked Mr. Neil this morning for his opinion regarding the conduct of the Colonist in distorting his remarks to make them suit its political prejudices and injure the member for Alberni, Mr. Neil replied that he did not care to say anything more than that the Colonist statement was quite incorrect. He had not, he would repeat, said anything whatsoever regarding "Canadians" or "soldiers" in the moment's exchange of words with Mr. Eberts in the private room of the members, nor had Mr. Eberts, in jotting down the supposed language of Mr. Neil done so correctly. Further, when Mr. Eberts showed Mr. Neil the paper upon which the alleged language of Mr. Neil had been noted, THE WORDS "CANADIAN" AND "SOLDIER" DID NOT APPEAR THEREON. They were added subsequently for what purpose the member for South Victoria probably knows best. The idea of an experienced lawyer like Mr. Eberts making so foolish a statement as that he would swear to or stand by a "memory note" taken in this connection is that of Mr. H. Dalrymple, who it is thought might be able to form an administration from the present membership of the House by bringing Mr. Cotton or some of the present ministers into the cabinet. This would tide matters over for the present at least and obviate an appeal to the country.

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Enquiry Dropped

As M. Baker May Proceed Against City Council Declines to Continue

The Chief Tells of the Happenings on the Night of the Fire.

A meeting of the City Council was held last evening at the City Hall to investigate the charges made by M. Baker into the workings of the fire department in connection with the fire on Chatham street on January 21st last. The investigation began at 9 p.m. For an hour or thereabouts prior to this the board discussed the propriety of holding the investigation, Ald. Yates having sounded a warning note that by holding the investigation the city were strengthening the hands of M. Baker in giving him any evidence he needed, should be, as Ald. Yates understood was to be done, take action against the city.

The proceedings of the evening were opened with an enquiry by Ald. Yates as to what was the subject of the enquiry, and J. P. Walls, who was there with and acting for his client, M. Baker, stated that it was not to attack the fire department or the chief, but simply to enquire into the workings of the department.

Ald. Yates asked Mr. Walls to go further. If he was attacking the city with a view of making a claim against the city, he thought the council should not call witnesses or hear evidence which could be carried to court by Mr. Walls.

In response to Ald. Yates, Mr. Walls said that at the present moment he was not, instructed to make a claim against the city.

Ald. Yates said there was, however, a prospect of a claim, for in the letter sent by M. Baker to the council he had said he had not removed the hay, which he alleged the fire department had deluged with water unnecessarily, because there was to be a claim against the city.

Mayor Hayward read from the letter of Mr. Walls to the council on behalf of his client that they had not removed the hay because they considered it belonged to the city, and pending settlement they declined to interfere with the same. The charges contained in another letter from Mr. Walls against the fire department were read, and then Mr. Baker's statement was read, in which he stated that the fire department had been an unreasonable long time in getting to the fire, and had allowed the fire to spread from the barn of Mr. Baker; second, that the delay had been caused by the defective working of the fire alarm and the orders given by the chief; and third, that the fire department had unnecessarily destroyed a large quantity of hay by throwing water on it after the fire had ceased, notwithstanding protests.

Mayor Hayward said they had better proceed with the enquiry and allow the chief to be heard.

Mr. Walls then said his object was not that of making charges against the fire department. City Solicitor Bradburn said he was making charges against the fire department, as in that letter. There was some discussion, and then Mr. Baker rose to explain his premises in the matter. His intention, he said, was to find out why the fire department were so long in getting to the fire. It was the duty of the council and the fire department to give every facility to the public in carrying out this investigation. The chief should not be allowed to prevent what was to be seen if there was any defect in the fire department that needed remedying. We have a right to have the workings of the fire department in a proper shape. If the alarm system was out of order, investigation should be made. If the department had not got to this fire in time only one of the buildings would have been destroyed. He had every confidence with the chief, with whom he had worked in the brigade. The fire department has fire alarms, and they should get them at once. They had a perfect right to see the fire without all the quibbling of the lawyers.

Ald. Yates, while admitting M. Baker's right as a citizen to have an investigation, pointed out that as it was evident that M. Baker had a claim against the city through his lawyer, it was impolitic to hold the enquiry and give them evidence. What would happen were the board to admit that the alarm system was defective?

M. Baker said: "I told you what I want. Let us investigate so that we can know what did happen, and if the system is out of order put it right." The Mayor thought they had better proceed with the enquiry and Ald. Yates said "that if you do so, Mr. Mayor, you do so with my protest."

Ald. Beekwith thought the action of the chief, as stated in M. Baker's letter, in ordering the apparatus to remain at the station was strange. He wanted to know if the evidence of the witnesses at the last meeting had been taken down. On being told that it was not he said: "Well, where are we at?" The Mayor said that it was costly to take evidence down, and he understood that they were to base their judgment on the impression they had gained on hearing the evidence. He then again suggested that they proceed and Ald. Yates asked to be put on record as having warned them.

Ald. Brydon thought there were two ways of protecting the city. If there is fault in the fire department and there is another configuration, where does the responsibility rest? He thought the legal men were late in coming to the relief of the council. If they had taken the evidence on one side they must also take it on the other.

It was suggested that the fire wardens hold the enquiry, and Ald. Cameron said he thought this suggestion came nearest to the settlement of the difficulty. Mr. Walls announced that so far as he and his client were concerned this

was satisfactory to them. Shall we proceed with the enquiry? again asked the Mayor. Some slight discussion followed, and then a motion to go on with the investigation was put and carried.

The only witness examined was the chief, T. Deasy, who on being sworn, said he had been connected with the fire department for 30 years. There was a big wind storm some days before this fire and some 25 miles of wires were down. He tested seven boxes, three in the circuit where the fire occurred. All rang in correctly and an alarm came in correctly from box 27. At 9:45 that night he heard three taps on the siren. The alarm usually comes four times, but only came once that night. He telephoned to F. Leroy, driver at James Bay, and asked what alarm he got. Leroy said four, and he ordered him to go to it, while witness went himself to box 3, on corner Superior and Birdcease streets. He was there when the alarm came, and he called to them to wait and not chase after him to box 3. He merely stopped them at that moment from following him. Witness went on to box 3 very fast. E. W. Bradley, who was with him, jumped out and saw the fire, and he called to the firemen to continue on to 4, where they noticed the smoke over town. They then started back, and when they got to corner of Fort and Government, where there were a number of hackmen, they spoke to them, asking if they had seen the fire department, and they said they had heard the siren, but they had not seen the fire. When they got to the corner of Yates and Government streets, they saw the fire and went on to the fire. All the apparatus which goes at the first alarm, except that which was sent to box 4, they found considerably cool and wood belonging to Painter on fire. The fire was one of the most dangerous he had seen, and if he had twenty streams he would have put them on. When Baker came to him he had said there were a quantity of vegetables in a part of the building and he had come to him and desired to save them. Witness said Baker did not have any other conversation with him as stated. The fire had burned till 5 o'clock in the morning. Witness told of the shut-off nozzles used by the department, which could shut off the stream and keep the hose afloat of water. They had one of those nozzles on each of the hose lines playing into the barn of M. Baker. Water had only been used on his hay when necessary. Twice since the fire his men had to go down to put out the fire which came from the hay.

The chief told of his tests of the fire alarm system, and he said that he had not all-in the vicinity of the fire. They came in all right when rung singly, but when two boxes were pulled at the same time, the result was a mix-up.

Telling of a conversation Baker had with him the day following the fire, the chief said Baker had come to him and said: "Deasy, if you fellows had half a chance you would have saved the barn, wouldn't you? Witness never answered. Continuing, Baker had said: "I am going to make somebody pay for this, I'm not kidding against you, Deasy, but see the fire and see how the hose works. You wouldn't have let the fire get away with you." Again witness did not answer.

Returning to the alarm system the chief said a high wind would disarrange the whole system.

Cross-examined by Mr. J. P. Walls, witness told with more detail of his trip in search of the fire, and of what he found on his arrival at the fire. The Merryweather was there, but not playing. They were a little while in getting one of the engines to work, and the engineer had informed him that the delay was due to one of the small pipes leaking.

The chief's evidence concluded, Ald. Yates again reiterated his protest against the continuation of the enquiry. He said that in view of what they had heard in reference to M. Baker's claim in the evidence of the chief, the enquiry should be discontinued. Some discussion followed and then on a motion by Mr. Yates the enquiry was stopped.

There was a brief discussion in regard to arrangements for the introduction of Ald. Yates's Point Ellice Bridge Loans Bill, and the meeting adjourned.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

News From the Political and Social Centre of Canada.

Our Ottawa Correspondent Sends Some Inside Facts Concerning Life in the Capital—Dodd's Kidney Pills a Factor in the Prolongation of It.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—Your correspondent has for the past few days busied himself in collecting health statistics as regards leading citizens of the capital. He finds the Kidney Diseases are yet to the fore, causing by far the greater number of deaths during the past year. While there is a vast falling off in deaths from this cause owing, it is generally acknowledged, to the widespread use of Dodd's Kidney Pills, yet there are still far too many such cases.

In the statistics compiled by the health officer these deaths are put down to varying causes, such as Rheumatism, Heart Disease, Blood Poisoning, Paralysis, Lumbago, Female Diseases and Consumption, though Bright's Disease of the Kidneys and Diabetes figure to a large extent.

When, however, it is considered that every single one of these diseases is caused by impure blood, it will be seen that the health officer has not gone into the question to any depth.

Impure blood is caused by weakness on the part of the kidneys to filter it. Your correspondent therefore finds that all these deaths were caused by Kidney Disease, and could have been treated by Dodd's Kidney Pills, which have never yet failed to cure diseases of the kidneys in this city.

Dodd's Kidney Pills are sold by all druggists at fifty cents a box, six boxes \$2.50, or will be sent on receipt of price. The Dodd's Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

ART NEEDLEWORK

A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN

January Quarter Now Ready.

Published quarterly, each volume being worth more than the price of subscription to any one interested in Needlework. Latest fashions discussed and illustrated as well as many colored plates showing exactly the stretch and shades of handsome Embroidery Work.

The price of subscription will be advanced to 35 cents with April number, all subscriptions to that date being at the old rate, 25 cents per year. Send for

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BOX 440 ST. JOHNS, P. Q.

We Are Progressing

In every fight, our Lyddite Shells of "Prices" are causing panic in our competitors' ranks, and our long-range guns of "Quality" have won for us an unanimous victory in the grocery business.

Ralston Stone Polish 10c tin
Rosa Laundry Soap 5c bar
Monkey Brand Soap 5c bar
Cottam's Bird Seed 10c pk
Old Port Wine 50c bottle
Old Sherry Wine 50c bottle

DIXIE H. ROSS & CO.

J. PIERCY & CO.

Wholesale Dry Goods, SHIRT AND CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS

We have the largest and best assorted stock in British Columbia, and are prepared to compete with any house in our line in Canada.

NOS. 21 TO 29 YATES STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.

—Mr. F. Oliver, agent of the Dominion Express Co. of this city, has received word of the death of his brother, Dr. A. S. Oliver, at Kingston, Ont. Dr. Oliver was a prominent physician of that city, and was for many years professor of materia medica in Queen's College. For over thirty years he was physician to the Kingston jail, holding that position until his death, which was caused by heart disease. Dr. Oliver was highly esteemed throughout Kingston, being endowed with a kind and generous disposition. He leaves a widow and three brothers, George and Charles of Kingston and Fredrick of this city.

A SPAVIN

Rings, Splints or Curbs will reduce the selling price of any horse 50 per cent. You might just as well get full value for your horse. Cure him with a Spavin as it does not last.



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DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c.

Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcer, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Beware of cheap imitations. Address: S. M. Fry, Field Manager, Hamilton, Ont.

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Graphic

25 Cents per year.

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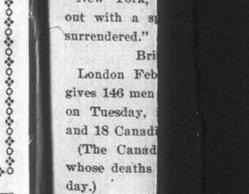
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COMPLETELY SURROUNDED

Graphic Account of British Attack on the Position Held by Boers Under Cronje.

NORTH OF THE TUGELA RIVER

Burghers Are Shelling the Ladysmith Relief Column—Transvaal Government Alarmed at the Retreat of Cronje.

(Associated Press.)

London, Feb. 23.—Every hour is expected to bring news of Cronje's surrender.

On all sides wonder is expressed that the gallant yet ghastly battle at Paardeberg Drift has not yet ended in what is considered to be the inevitable. With 50 guns bearing upon the devoted band within the terrible short range of 2,000 yards, surrender or utter annihilation can be the only result, unless all reports of the strength of Boer reinforcements be wrong. Even an unexpectedly strong attack on Lord Roberts's lines of communication could scarcely, according to those experts, alter the result.

Groundless Rumors.

Rumors were current this morning that the end of the struggle had come, but these emanated from information received by the Rothschilds, which they subsequently discovered to be utterly without foundation.

Sunday's Fight.

The severe losses incurred on Sunday by Kelly-Kenny produced adverse criticisms, but it is pointed out that if he fought less furiously he would have given the Boers the opportunity to entrench themselves, and effect further flight to a more advantageous position.

News by Mail.

The last mails from Africa brought accounts of the war. From Ladysmith, the Tugela, Modder River, Rensburg and Mafeking, come thrilling episodes and deeds of daring that make the British justly proud of the men who are fighting their battles on the veldt. Moreover, in the many published columns there are minute explanations by war correspondents that help to take away the sting of reverse, though these writers do not hesitate to criticize bluntly when the reason demands.

A Colonial Division.

The news of Roberts's decision to create an independent Colonial division under the command of Gen. Brabant, an experienced Colonial soldier, and officered in the main by Colonial officers, has caused the greatest satisfaction everywhere in Cape Colony.

Reported Surrender.

New York, Feb. 23.—The Tribune is out with a special saying "Cronje has surrendered."

British Casualties.

London, Feb. 23.—The official report gives 146 men killed at Paardeberg Drift on Tuesday, including 63 Highlanders and 18 Canadians.

(The Canadians are probably those whose deaths were reported on Wednesday.)

CRONJE HEMMED IN.

Boer Leader Refuses to Surrender—Details of the Fighting Near Paardeberg British Casualties.

Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Feb. 20.—As night fell after the terrific fighting which lasted all day on Sunday, there was a sudden cessation of fire. Both sides were thoroughly tired and glad to rest. The work of collecting the dead and wounded proceeded, and the men slept where they had fought the whole day.

The action was one of the most fearfully contested in the history of the war, the Boers fighting solely for their lives and the British determined to harass them. The mounted infantry did good work, and the Highland Brigade fought steadily and sternly. The whole force behaved well.

On Sunday evening the cordons around the Boers was completely closed. On every side was perfect silence. A few Boers came into camp during the night and confessed they were

Sick of Fighting.

and that Cronje was being urged to surrender. Cronje's force occupied the river bed,

All the animals and the men suffered terribly from thirst, as it was impossible to transport water. A heavy thunderstorm in the afternoon, however, considerably relieved their suffering.

Lord Kitchener was present with the force. General Macdonald was wounded in the foot, but not severely. Our men marched splendidly to overtake the retreating enemy. Deserters say a great number of the Boers lost their horses. Oxen are daily seen wandering over the plain, and many come into our lines.

Monday morning found the Boers in the same place. During the night they had

Constructed Entrenchments around the laager, which was still threatened by General Smith-Dorrien.

The infantry rested after the terrible hard day's fighting on Sunday. The mounted infantry and a battery of horse artillery started to observe the enemy, who was holding a kopje, but while riding around the southern side of the kopje they received a heavy fusillade, and were obliged to move further out. They sustained no casualties. This was attributed to bad Boer marksmanship.

Pushing on the detachment found that the kopje extended a considerable distance west, sloping gradually to the plain. They seized a good defensive position which was garrisoned. They continued the movement and

Completely Turned the Boers, whose left was held strongly by a farm house. This was vigorously shelled.

The detachment returned to camp at night fall, leaving a garrison on the bridge.

Meanwhile a desultory bombardment of the Boer position was kept up, and a good deal of rifle fire concentrated where the Essex regiment was attempting to rush up the river. About midday the cry "General French has arrived" was passed down the ranks, but his division operated out of sight of our forces.

When Roberts arrived he addressed several regiments and was vigorously cheered.

Early in the day General Cronje asked for a 24 hours' armistice in order to bury his dead.

Lord Kitchener refused, and a little later came another messenger with word to the effect that if the Boers were inhuman enough to refuse an armistice for the purpose of burying the dead Cronje saw no other course but to surrender. Upon receipt of this message Kitchener proceeded to the Boer laager in order to arrange the capitulation, but he was met by a messenger who said General Cronje said that the whole thing was a mistake that Cronje had not the slightest intention of surrendering, but would fight until he died.

Kitchener returned and ordered bombardment of the Boer position. Three field batteries and a howitzer battery took a position in front of the laager and began an accurate fire, the howitzers using lyddite shells freely. The Boers were seen

Retiring from the Trenches to the river bed in order to seek cover, but no cover could protect them from such a deadly fire. The howitzers dropped lyddite shells with precision into the very bed of the river, and the trenches were soon filled with horrible fumes and green smoke. But the enemy held grimly on.

Again during the night deserters arrived. They were much frightened and shaken by the awful experience. They reported that they had water in abundance, but were unable to draw only scanty supply from their laager during the night.

The morning sun disclosed the Boers tending like rats on the entrenchments around their laager. A few shells were fired to prevent them continuing work, but most of the day was quiet.

Gen. French's Artillery Was Heard off to the east, presumably bombarding the Boers' reinforcements.

Every opportunity was given the Boers to surrender but when, towards afternoon, there was no sign of any such intention, Roberts determined to crush once and for all Gen. Cronje's resistance.

On the south bank of the river, at a range of about 2,000 yards, were placed three field batteries and two naval 12-pounders, and on the north bank one

battery, three naval batteries and three 12-pounders.

Then followed the most wonderful scene it was ever this correspondent's lot to witness. Once before, in Thesabury, he had seen 110 guns in action, but never such a number of powerful guns.

Concentrating Their Fire upon a spot about a mile square. The exploding lyddite shells raised large clouds of green smoke, completely filling the bed of the river. The shrapnel burst on the edge of each bank, except for a short space where the proximity of the British infantry made it dangerous. Our shells searched every bush and every ravine in the river bed. The machine guns must have done terrible execution. The roar was deafening. The Boers with a spirit of desperate madness the Boers would now and again attempt to snipe the naval guns which were firing at a range of 1,000 yards. The long line of three batteries

Betched Their Death Missiles, while on each side lay two battalions of infantry whose Maxims sounded petty beside the roaring of the big guns.

This dispatch is being written in the middle of a sleeping camp. Not a sound disturbs the heavy summer of the tired soldiers. Down the river bed, not a fire is seen, not a cry heard.

ACROSS THE TUGELA.

Boers Shell Ladysmith Column, but Are Thought to Be Covering Retreat of Entire Force.

Colenso, Natal, Feb. 21, via Chieveley, Feb. 22.—The British have crossed the Tugela over the pontoons northward of Hlangwani, and now occupy Fort Wylie.

White's naval brigade bombarded Grobler's Kloof yesterday with the Boer big Creusote replying.

After the occupation of Colenso a small party of Thornycroft's Horse crossed the river, but were driven back by fire from the trenches.

The Boer guns are still shelling the relieving force from the hills south of Ladysmith, but the impression is spreading that they are merely covering the retreat of the entire Boer force.

Buller's casualties on the 20th and 21st were: Killed, Capt. Greatcock and Lieut. Ketchin, Falconer and Parry of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, and 9 men; wounded, 6 officers and 97 men; missing, 5 men.

Boers Tell of Fighting. Hoofd Laager, Ladysmith, Feb. 21.—There was heavy fighting all Monday and Tuesday, and it has continued since early this morning.

Our officers hope to dislodge the British from their position.

Last night a body of British troops tried to cross the river, but were beaten back with heavy loss.

Our loss was slight.

Our positions are being bombarded from Ladysmith at a point where the Klip River passes through the hills. Our "Long Tom" is replying with good effect.

FIGHTING NEAR ARUNDEL. Boers Driven From the Hills Are Retreating Northward.

Arun del, Feb. 22.—Col. Henderson's squadron of the Inniskillings, with two guns, reconnoitered westward to Moolfontein farm, on the direct road to Colesburg and Hanover. They got close to the Boers in the hills and were fired on. They quickly got their guns in position and shelled the hills. Eventually the Boers were driven out.

They retired northward and came under heavy fire of two other guns, supported by Australians near the British western point on Dragon Hill.

Col. Henderson proceeded to Moolfontein farm, which he now occupies.

Stratheona's Horse.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—A military officer, in speaking of the Stratheona Horse, said to-day: "I doubt if troopers, or soldiers of any kind for that matter, ever went to the front with as complete or costly a kit. It is really something to talk about."

Patriotic Fund.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—The Canadian Patriotic Fund to date is \$128,547.

Commissions for Canadians.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—A cable has been received from Mr. Chamberlain offering commissions in the Imperial army to Cadets Boon, Lewis, Webster, Harris and Hoer, of the Royal Military College, Kingston, if the minister of militia recommends them and they pass the regular medical examination.

The Sabine Released.

Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, Feb. 23.—The British authorities have released the seized steamship Sabine.

The Patti Concert.

London, Feb. 23.—Madame Patti sang last evening for the war fund at Covent Garden, the scene of her former triumphs. The Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family were present, together with an immense audience, including many of the most distinguished persons in England. With Alvarez, she sang in a duet from Romeo and Juliet with undiminished sweetness and purity of tone. Johannes Wolf and Edward Lloyd took part in the concert, the gross receipts of which were £12,000.

standing, and that he would fight to the bitter death.

"The bombardment was then reopened, and our lyddite shells reached the Boer positions. We continued shelling the laager through the night, and in the morning resumed with Maxims and rifles, principally from the north side.

"On Sunday there was much waste of life in attacking, and the same result will be achieved without it.

"The Canadians made a gallant charge of bravery at the laager, but were driven back with loss.

"Gen. Macdonald and Gen. Knox are slightly wounded.

"During Monday night seven Boers made an attempt to break through our lines, but they were captured and their leader was killed. They were carrying letters. It is believed that one more got through.

"Other prisoners say that Gen. Cronje marched from Magerfontein here without outspanning, a distance of 35 miles. Had he succeeded in escaping it would have been one of the finest performances in the annals of warfare."

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Meanwhile the Highland Brigade, composed of the Seaforth, the Black Watch and the Essex, Welsh and Yorkshires formed a long line on the left, which rested on the river, the extreme right being the Welsh. The whole line was ordered to envelop the Boers, who lined both banks of the river. The firing soon became heavy.

The Boers, holding a splendid position, covered the left of the Highland Brigade, which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open, while the rest of the brigade with the other regiments swung round the front of the Highland Brigade on the level, coverless ground, exposed to

A Terrible Fire, which obliged the men to lie upon the ground, as they did for the remainder of the day.

This began at 7:30 in the morning. Through the dreadful heat and terrible thunderstorm our men hung to the post, holding their fire and shooting steadily. In the meantime the rest of the infantry completed the enveloping movement, the Welsh Regiment having succeeded in seizing the Drift, thus closing in the Boers, who fought throughout with splendid courage.

Gen. Cronje's laager, full of carts, ammunition and stores, could be plainly seen near the north bank.

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Dominion Parliament

The Question of Transportation Causes Considerable Discussion.

Sir Richard Cartwright Sets Conservatives Right on Campaign Literature.

The Vote for the Expenses of the Contingents Again Under Discussion.

Views of Members From All Parts of the Country Placed Before the People.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The transportation problem was the chief item under discussion in the House of Commons yesterday, and was brought about by a resolution of Mr. Bennett, member for East Simcoe, who brought down a resolution to the effect that "in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived when a fixed and definite line of action should be undertaken on the question of the transportation of the grain and other commodities of the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and the Western States with a view to centring the same to the greatest possible extent in Canadian channels."

The position which he took was that enough money had now been spent on our canal system, and that it is clear that better results could be had from the development of the mixed rail and water route via Georgian Bay. He also criticised the Conners contract, and said that the company would never bring more than the 30,000,000 bushels to Montreal specified in the contract.

Mr. Tarte's Statement. The Minister of Public Works said that the House would agree to the proposition laid down in this motion. The government recognized the importance of the transcontinental question and had endeavored to grapple with it. Mr. Bennett's view, as he understood it, was that the government should spend more money on the canal system; that the Welland canal has, for instance, not proved a conspicuous success commercially. This seemed true enough, but the reason was obvious. The American port of Buffalo was one of the best equipped ports on the continent. On the other hand, Port Colborne, the southern harbor at all, and one would have to be built. This was the head of our canal system on the lakes. Montreal was at the other end, and both had to be properly equipped if we were to capture a share of the trade. Mr. Bennett had talked of an expenditure of five millions to fix up Port Colborne. His own opinion was that it would not require any such expenditure. The money could certainly be spent, but enough could be done for a million dollars.

Referring to the question of the Conners contract, Mr. Tarte supported the action of the harbor commissioners. Two main points in the agreement were the government control of the rates, and the other clause which would enable the board in certain contingencies to take over the whole property of the syndicate. The whole correspondence with the government on this subject was most interesting, and he would be pleased to bring it down if some member would put a motion on the order paper. Mr. Port Colborne water route would be about 374 miles, was one that should be held to hold its own against the 445 miles of railway down to New York from Buffalo, and 494 miles by the Erie canal and the Hudson river. He agreed with every word said by Mr. Bennett as to the importance of the canal system, but we have spent millions on our waterways and should see that they are taken care of. It is necessary to fit them out for coping with the requirements of trade today. It was useless fighting our natural routes of transport. There was an immense trade in the west and the Elder Dempster Steamship Line had shown the fact to the people of Canada by the trade they had worked up in a few years. Other proposals worthy of consideration were those for an air line from Collingwood to Toronto, and enabling the C. P. R. vessels to carry grain from Fort William to North Bay.

Mr. Tarte expressed the hope that Montreal might be made a free port by the abolition of harbor dues and added in closing that he hoped the matter would be considered from a standpoint independent of all politics.

Mr. Dobell's Views. The Hon. R. R. Dobell gave the House his views on the importance of coping with the transportation matter. He also referred to the discrimination by the Lloyds against the St. Lawrence steamship route, and expressed the opinion that the only way of getting around the case would be by organizing a strong Canadian insurance company to assume risks, on something like fair and reasonable terms. The discussion was not concluded when six o'clock arrived and the House rose for the day.

New Bills. Mr. Reid (South Grenville) secured the first reading of his bill to regulate freight rates on railways, to provide for the appointment of a railway commission to guard against unfair discrimination, rebates, etc.

Mr. John Charlton moved the first reading of his bill to amend the Criminal Code.

Mr. Davin brought in a bill respecting promotion from the ranks in the Northwest Mounted Police.

The Minister of the Interior introduced a bill to amend the Dominion

lands act. The first section gave authority to the government to issue patents for land whose prices who entered them had died before getting their clear title. Section two covers cases where the settlers reside on lands they have purchased, and section three cases where the government has lands on land. Section four provides that homesteaders shall have the time they spend on active service, applying especially to the men who have gone to South Africa, to have their time of service counted as residence on their homesteads. Other sections deal with cases of parties who may have been incapacitated from performing their homestead duties by illness contracted through their military service.

Militia in Yukon. In reply to a question by Mr. Foster, the Minister of Militia explained that there are at present six officers and eighty-two men in Yukon district, of which ten are stationed at Selkirk and the balance at Dawson.

Lee-Enfield Rifle. In answering a question by Lieut.-Col. prior the Minister of Militia acknowledged that his attention had been called to serious charges in several well known English newspapers against the construction of the Lee-Enfield rifle now used in the British army and in the Canadian militia, as to its being unsighted, that it throws constantly to the right and there is no allowance for drift with the long-range sights. No formal complaints had reached the department, but a report had been made on the subject which had been sent on to the high commissioner in London for transmission to the war office.

The Pension Fund. Mr. Marcotte had a question on the paper as to the amounts granted by the government for the pension fund. The amount so granted last year was \$324,500, and in 1897 \$340,155.

Blankets for Our Soldiers. The Minister of Militia stated in the course of a reply to Mr. Bergeron that two blankets were issued to each man of the first contingent to South Africa, with a reserve of four hundred on ship-board. The members of the second contingent received four blankets per head.

Canadian Veterans. A reply to Mr. Casey showed that in Ontario and Quebec 500 volunteers were called out in the fall of 1895 in anticipation of the Fenian invasion. The following year 10,000 were first called out, and this was increased to 14,000, and then again reduced to 10,000. Twenty thousand volunteers were out later in the same year.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—The transportation question was again the main topic of debate in the House of Commons yesterday. Members' questions and a few minor matters were the only other business, and an adjournment was made at six o'clock.

Private Bills. Mr. D. C. Fraser introduced a bill respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to the British Yukon Railway Company.

Mr. McIntosh introduced a bill respecting the Hereford Railway Company.

Mr. McIsaac introduced a bill to incorporate the Alaska and Yukon Railway Company.

Mr. Fraser introduced a bill respecting the Nova Scotia Steel Company.

Mr. McInnes introduced a bill respecting the Brandon and South-Western Railway Company.

Mr. Ingram introduced a bill respecting the Niagara and Grand Island Bridge Company.

Mr. Britton secured a first reading for his bill to amend the Criminal Code, which is framed on very much the same lines as the measure of last year.

Another bill brought in by Mr. Britton was to provide for the introduction of a machine device for the registry of votes. Mr. Britton had only got so far as to say that the idea was to teach electors to vote by machine, when a loud laugh interrupted his announcement.

Mr. A. Campbell introduced a bill in further amendment of the Trades Mark and Designs act.

Political Pamphlets. Mr. George Taylor had a question on the order paper in regard to the issue of a Liberal pamphlet entitled "Political Pamphlets, No. 1," in reply to which Sir Richard Cartwright stated that he was not in a position to say exactly how many of these have been sent out. He was inclined to say that there was not as large a number as there should have been, but he had reason to believe that several hundred thousand had been sent out. Some here had been sent several hundred thousand copies of government envelopes being free. They were sent through the mails used. They were not addressed by civil servants.

A Bad Example. Sir Richard added that he would say a word or two as to the general question of the precedents previous to 1896. The opposition attempted to turn the minister aside by loud cries of "Order." Sir Richard, however, was not to be shut off in this fashion, and went on to say: "I propose, giving the House full information on this subject. If the honorable gentlemen ask questions they must be prepared to take the answers. I find by the Auditor-General's report that during December, 1895, and in 1896 a certain Miss Bertha Marks was employed exclusively in disseminating literature not for the Liberal party. I found that another member of the service was exclusively engaged in this work from April to June, 1896. I am also informed that the messengers were employed to frank them with the frank of the late Mr. Ives. I further find in the Auditor-General's report an account for 42,000 envelopes which I have every reason to believe were used for the said campaign literature."

Mounts for the Strathcona Horse. Mr. Oliver brought to the notice of the Minister of Militia an interview with Dr. McEachran, who is charged with the purchase of the horses for the Strathcona contingent, in which he seemed to indicate that he would not be able to get

six hundred Canadian ponies and that some would be accepted from Montana. He thought the statement unwarranted and asked that the doctor be requested to take none but Canadian horses as Lord Strathcona, who is paying for them, would himself direct.

The Minister of Militia replied that Dr. McEachran had received his orders in the matter from Lord Strathcona, that he had no control over him in the matter.

Dr. Rutherford (Macdonald) said that the real difficulty was in getting suitable ponies for the figure which is allowed for them, eighty dollars.

The Transportation Problem. Mr. R. R. Dobell continued the discussion on Mr. Bennett's resolution, drawing attention to the importance of the transportation question. Out of the three million bushels of grain carried through the St. Lawrence he estimated that only 495,000 bushels were carried in Canadian bottoms. He endorsed the wisdom of the contract with the Conners syndicate and thought it was well to get as much money as we can into the carriage of our grain from the west. He again referred to his proposal for the establishing of a Canadian insurance company to carry risks on Canadian shipping. He thought this would soon bring the English companies to time. Both the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Marine were doing their best to make the St. Lawrence route pay.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Red, Casey, Oiler and McMullen. The adjournment was moved by Mr. Haggart and the House rose for the day at six o'clock.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The entire sitting of the House of Commons yesterday was taken up in the continued debate on the questions of the vote for the Canadian contingents in South Africa. The subject is one which a good many of the members on both sides evidently wish to be heard and it is very likely that the whole of the next government day (Tuesday) will be devoted to the same topic.

Lieut.-Col. Donville moved the introduction of his bill to amend the act relating to members of the House of Commons and Senate so as to remove the feature which now makes it impossible for a militia officer to hold a seat in parliament. Owing to its not being filed out the measure stood over.

The Vote for the Contingents. The debate on the resolution of the Minister of Finance setting aside a sum of two million dollars to meet the expenses of the Canadian contingents sent to South Africa was then resumed by Mr. Davin, who spoke for something over an hour. He compared Mr. Chamberlain's speech of last Tuesday to a confirmed heretic reading his recantation. The government was in such open disagreement on this matter of the contingent that it had ceased in his opinion to be responsible. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by his statement to the Globe, reported in the public press, had shown that there was a large part of the people dissenting from the majority view. He believed that today Canada presents that proud spectacle of a united people whose desire is to strengthen the arm and encourage the heart of the Mother Country, something in which the Canadian people are not so much as in England and for Canada the safety, welfare and permanence of the British Empire.

A Voice From Richmond and Wolfe. Mr. Stenson (Richmond and Wolfe) said that he came from a country made up of mixed English and French. They were, perhaps, three-quarters French-Canadian, but they had expressed everywhere their concurrence in the government's action. They thought, too, that the government had acted generously enough in the matter and deserved credit for so doing. He deprecated reflections on the loyalty of the Irish in the Old Country, many of whom were at the front at battle.

Feeling in Terrebonne. Mr. Chauvin (Terrebonne), Conservative, read several resolutions adopted at a meeting at St. Jerome, on December 21st, the substance of which is an acknowledgment of the advantages which had accrued to French-Canadians under British rule and of the justice which had always been rendered them, extending sincere wishes for the success of British arms, while at the same time protesting against all attempts to make Canada a party to the Imperial war without first consulting parliament. Mr. Chauvin entered a strong protest against the assertions made in regard to the French-Canadian "loyalty" in certain newspapers, and declared that the people of his province were among the most loyal of British subjects. The House was now asked to ratify the expenditure of two million dollars. This was overstepping the usage of parliament, he declared, and he would not support the expenditure and not sanction it after it had been made. In this case parliament should, and could, have been summoned, and while some members made the excuse of economy for this course not have been followed, he judged from the utterances of members of the government to give their services free. The hon. gentleman protested most strongly against Imperial federation, towards which Canada seemed to be drifting. In speaking of the contingents, he recalled that Mr. Wallace had raised the question of the proposition of French-Canadians in the continent, and said it would be an interesting fact which he would have liked Mr. Wallace to have established, as to how many members of the contingent were Canadian-born.

In Two Languages. Mr. Casey (West Elgin) addressed the House for about five minutes in the French language in order to assert, he said, his right as a Canadian to speak in either of the official languages. Speaking in English, he said that the House was ready to vote on many resolutions as the government thought necessary in order to give whatever aid was needed to the armies of the Empire fighting in South Africa. This was, he said, the unanimous opinion of French and English alike. Mr. Casey spoke at length in support of the Imperial idea, and said that in his conception of that policy Canada was far in advance of the British people.

Other Speakers. Mr. Bell (Prince Edward Island) supported the resolution in a speech which covered the entire subject of the war and Canada's relations thereto. He thoroughly endorsed all the government had done, and defended the French-Canadian population against accusations of disloyalty, pointing to the fact that Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, had ordered prayers said throughout his archdiocese for the success of the British arms. He went very fully into the causes which led to the war, and declared it to be a perfectly just enterprise. Mr. Clarke (West Toronto) also supported the resolution, and the adjournment of the debate was moved by Col. Prior, the House rising at 10.20.

House, in 1864, to show that there was no doubt as to the right of the British authorities to send the Earl Dufferin to the continent. He regretted exceedingly that they had not seen that this was a time for upholding the Empire in its struggle for the liberty of its subjects in South Africa. Mr. McInnes, promised his support to the government's resolution, and would have been prepared in these growing times to have paid the cost of the whole contingent. He was not surprised at the action taken by Messrs. Bourassa and Mostash as both of them were gentlemen trained in the school of French-Canadian politics, and he approved of the action taken by the Irish party in the Imperial House, he said that, to his mind, the part of wisdom for them would have been to have sought in this crisis to have drawn closer the ties that bind the Empire together. 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The Hearing Resumed

Defamatory Libel Case Occupied the Police Court's Attention This Morning.

Several Witnesses Examined—Case Finally Adjourned Until Monday.

The case of George Sheldon Williams, charged with publishing a defamatory article concerning the Lieut.-Governor in the Kamloops Standard on January 11th last, was resumed in the police court this morning. Several manuscripts were produced, Mr. Sarel having secured these while at Kamloops during the week. The original "copy," however, of the article complained of was not produced, Mr. Sarel being unable to find it.

Several witnesses were examined this morning, including Messrs. Sarel, F. Young, and Case of Kamloops, Q. D. H. Warden and C. A. Gregg, of the Col.

Proceedings were opened with the re-examination of Mr. Sarel, who was questioned by Deputy Attorney-General McLean regarding articles written by him in the Standard subsequently to the appearance of the article complained of.

Mr. Walls, for the defence, objected on the ground that subsequent matter written by the witness had no bearing on the case.

Mr. McLean maintained that his questions were directly material to the issue, as he was so much in doubt as to what portion of the article was really written by the witness.

An interruption at this point from Mr. Walls caused the deputy attorney-general to ejaculate, "My learned friend wants to talk all the time."

The magistrate remarked that the deputy attorney-general's examination was quite material to the issue, for if he could not prove which portion of the article was written by the defendant he would have no case.

In response to a question as to whether a certain article had been written by the witness, the latter stated that he had himself been informed that proceedings were to be taken against him in this case, and he was not inclined to answer the question.

The magistrate informed Mr. Sarel that he was entitled to enter his objections while answering the questions. Several manuscripts signed "Observer" were then put in, the witness stating that he was unable to find the original manuscript of the article complained of.

Mr. Sarel, questioned the deputy attorney-general, producing one of the manuscripts, "whose handwriting is that?"

"I can't say for a certainty," replied the witness.

"Whose handwriting do you think it is?" persisted Mr. McLean.

"I think it is Williams'," replied the witness, "but I would not swear to it."

"Why do you think it is Williams' handwriting?" inquired Mr. McLean.

"Because it is written by hand," answered the witness. "Mr. Williams has no typewriter."

"Where did you find this?" questioned Mr. McLean, producing a manuscript.

"Eh! In the waste paper basket," replied the witness.

"Is this your handwriting?" asked Mr. McLean.

"It might be; I really can't say," replied the witness.

"Is this in your handwriting?" repeated Mr. McLean, a little nettled. "Mr. Sarel, I want no more nonsense."

"I tell you I really can't say, as my handwriting varies from day to day. Now this line, for instance, resembles my handwriting."

Compared with exhibit 3 witness stated that the first sheet of exhibit 4 was in the same handwriting as the first sheet of exhibit 3. The second sheet of exhibit 4 was in the same handwriting as exhibit 3.

"Whose letter does exhibit 4 purport to be?" asked Mr. McLean.

"Observer's," replied the witness.

Continuing, the witness said he could not say whether exhibit 4 appeared in his paper. He could not find the manuscripts of the letter which was headed "The House Agents," and appeared in his paper on January 11th.

"Where is that manuscript?" sternly asked the deputy attorney-general.

"I can't say. I believe it to be lost," replied the witness.

Continuing, Mr. Sarel asserted that when he went to his office it was clean, and the present manuscripts he found among the sweepings. He thought that the manuscript referred to was lost.

Mr. McLean then read an article appearing in a subsequent issue of the Standard in which it was stated that the correspondence could not be traced as his correspondence was accepted subject to correction.

"Who was that correspondent referred to?" thundered the questioner.

"I can't say," replied the witness.

Mr. McLean persisted but could get no satisfaction from the witness as to the identity of the correspondent.

"Have you ever written a letter to Williams?" asked Mr. McLean. "Yes," was the reply.

"Has he ever replied?" queried Mr. McLean. "No," he never replied," was the answer.

"That is peculiar. Did you ever have a talk on the article published on January 11th?" "I met him on the street, and mentioned it casually to him, and he only laughed and passed on," replied the witness.

Referring to this conversation, he could not remember it in its entirety, but the impression it left on his mind was that the prosecution did not amount to much, as they had got hold of the wrong man.

Witness may have held other conversations with defendant regarding this article, but he could not remember when or where. He could not even remember where this conversation referred to occurred.

"Was there anyone else besides Wil-

liams who wrote correspondence to you under the nom de plume of "Observer?" asked the deputy attorney-general. "I sometimes wrote it myself," replied the witness.

He could not remember, in fact he could not remember but very little regarding what appeared in his paper.

"Do you ever remember anything else?" asked the attorney. "My memory is very defective. I can give you any amount of evidence on that point," replied the witness.

As regards the editorship of the paper, witness attested that the publication sometimes edited itself.

In reply to Mr. Walls, witness said he just met the defendant when he (witness) came down, in Hibben's store, when he had no conversation on the matter under consideration. Subsequently defendant had told him that the government had got hold of the wrong man, and "Joe" had got a in for him (witness). Witness had made a careful search for the required manuscript.

Referring to some correspondence appearing in the issue of February 1st, witness said he could not remember from whom it came, as he could not find it. He may have written it himself.

"Did you write it?" asked Mr. McLean.

"I couldn't say," responded the witness.

The witness was then bound over to appear to give evidence in the event of the case coming up in another court, after which Mr. C. A. Gregg, reporter for the Colonist, said he had had an opportunity as editor of the Globe to make himself familiar with defendant's handwriting. As to exhibit 3 and 4 he would say that they were in defendant's handwriting. In response to Mr. Walls, witness stated that all the pencil matter was in defendant's handwriting, in exhibit 3. In fact with the exception of the word "ignoramus," he would swear that all the handwriting of exhibit 3 was Mr. Williams'. As to exhibit 4, the body of the letter was certainly, as far as his knowledge went, in the defendant's handwriting.

Fred Young, a commission and insurance agent of Kamloops, was next called.

Mr. Young stated that he was not on the staff of the Standard, although he sometimes assisted the editor. He could not say who the editor was, but Mr. Sarel generally acted in that capacity. When Mr. Sarel was in Kamloops he had nothing to do with correspondence or anything else in connection with the paper. He had nothing to do with the article published in the Standard on January 11th. He did not think he wrote the headlines. He should think that Mr. Sarel had written the headlines.

Frank H. Case, of Kamloops, was then called. He had been in Kamloops six weeks, and was in the office of the Kamloops Printing & Publishing Co. on January 11th. He did not know who the editor was, in fact he did not know if there was an editor. Mr. Sarel and Mr. Young wrote the editorials.

Mr. McLean remarked that the editor was not a man who went around with the label "editor" on his back.

Mr. Walls objected to this line of cross-examination, while the Deputy Attorney-General said he was not cross-examining the witness. He was merely helping him out.

Witness did not know who the editor was, in fact he did not know what the duties of an editor were.

This Mr. McLean explained, and witness answered that he believed Messrs. Sarel and Young performed these duties. He did not know who set the type for the article published on January 11th. It might have been set up previous to his employment on the paper. He had nothing to do with the insertion of the article.

Q. D. H. Warden was then called. Under examination by the Deputy Attorney-General, Mr. Warden attested to having had a talk with defendant regarding the appearance of the article. In this conversation he would infer from defendant's manner that he had written the article, but in reply to his specific question, defendant replied that he did not write the article.

Mr. Walls submitted that all the evidence of the last witness he took out as it merely amounted to a question of impressions which certainly could not be admitted.

The magistrate ruled otherwise and under cross-examination by Mr. Walls, witness stated that he believed exhibit 3 and 4 to be in Mr. Williams' handwriting.

After the last witness was duly bound over, Mr. Walls submitted that no case had been made out against his client in regard to his connection with the article complained of.

The case was finally adjourned until Monday morning, Mr. Walls having announced his intention of bringing witness to contradict the evidence of the last one.

PIONEER GONE.

Death in Edinburgh of One of the Pioneers of Victoria and Vancouver Island.

The sad news was received in the city today of the death in Edinburgh, Scotland, of Jas. Yates, one of the pioneers of this city, at the advanced age of 81 years. The telegram was received by Mr. J. S. Yates, his son, and contained no particulars. His death marks the departure of one of the few survivors of the old Hudson's Bay regime, and one who was held in high esteem not only by the early settlers but by those who know him in later years.

James Yates was born on January 21st, 1819, at Llanthgow, Scotland. While he was still a child his parents removed to Fifehire, where Mr. Yates grew up to manhood and was educated. In 1849 he came to British Columbia as an article clerk of the Hudson's Bay Company. He was stationed at Victoria for eighteen months, and on the arrival of the company's ships, from England, Mr. Yates had the work of superintending their discharge and freightage. At the end of 18 months he applied for the cancellation of his articles and was successful. He then started in business as a trader. He had seen the opening there was for a man of energy and intelligence and decided not to lose the opportunity. He was very successful in all his ventures and made a great deal of money. He was elected to the first legislative council of Vancouver Island in 1855 to represent Victoria city. In 1860 he took his family home to

Scotland, where he left them, and in 1862 returned to British Columbia. Here he put his affairs in order, and in 1864 returned to Scotland, where he settled. He lived in the town of Portobello, a suburb of Edinburgh, until his death.

FROM ALBERTA.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.) Things are picking up in this district. Mr. Childs and party are building cabins, etc., in the vicinity of Sunahine camp in Uchuclut. Several men have been working on properties in Snug basin, and the recent snow has checked development work for the present. Work will be resumed as soon as the snow clears off.

Mr. Toy returned to Albert on Saturday. Work still continues at the Golden Eagle and Mr. Newton is expected in shortly.

Several men have been working up Granite creek, but the weather has put a brief stop to it.

I understand things are going to move on Mineral Hill shortly. Mr. Lindsay is going up to Sprout Lake to develop the Jingo Bird, which gives great promise of turning out a valuable property.

There is a steady demand for developed copper properties.

The Lake Shore on Anderson Lake is looking remarkably well.

THE BIG COLONIES.

What They Cost the Great Powers in the Course of a Year.

Although the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, extending throughout this article as England, for the sake of brevity—is not the oldest of the colonial powers, being outdistanced in that respect by Spain, France, Holland and Portugal, her colonies are to-day by far the most important, both in regard to their extent and population, while the commerce of the British colonies is greater in volume than that of all the colonies of all other powers put together.

If we include India, the colonies of England cover an area of 9,000,000 square miles; and if to this we add the area of British protectorates and spheres of influence, the total area subject to British rule is 11,000,000 square miles. The smaller area, that of the colonies of India alone, support a population of 387,000,000, or about 420,000,000, or, roughly speaking, six times the population of the United States. As to colonial power France comes next to England, but at a great distance behind. The French colonies, including Algeria, the French Congo, and all protectorates and spheres of influence, gave an area of 8,500,000 square miles and a population of 53,000,000. Next comes Germany, whose colonies and protectorates have an area of 1,000,000 square miles and a population of 11,000,000. The Dutch colonies have an area of 800,000 square miles and a population of 35,000,000. The expenses of France yearly are about \$14,000,000, and Germany about \$5,000,000. It has been stated that, although England's colonies are not a source of direct expense to the Mother Country, they are indirectly, for it is the possession of colonies which necessitates such enormous expenditures for the British navy. This is a mistaken idea. Even if England owned no colonies, she would still have to keep her navy at its present strength for the purpose of defence, and because her carrying trade, which forms about 60 per cent. of the carrying trade of the world, must be protected.

It is seen, then, that so far from colonies being a source of direct revenue to the Mother Country, they are the case of both France and Germany a source of great expense.

About Trade.

But what of trade? Does not the possession of colonies imply an important commercial development, in which the Mother Country reaps great profit? Here again we will compare France, Germany and England. First, in regard to imports from colonies. In 1897, England received from her colonies the value of \$470,000,000, her total imports from all countries, including her colonies, being valued at \$2,250,000,000. In other words, she received more than one-fifth of her imports from her own colonies. In 1898, France imported from her colonies goods to the value of \$700,000, her total imports being valued at \$750,000,000. That is to say, she received less than one-tenth of her imports from her colonies. Germany received in 1896, imports from her colonies to the value of \$1,000,000,000. That is, she received about one-fifth-hundredth part of her imports from her colonies.

Turning now to exports, we find that in 1897, England exported British and Irish produce to the value of \$1,170,000,000, of which \$400,000,000 worth went to the British colonies—roughly, one-third of her total exports. In 1898, the value of her exports of French merchandise amounted to \$850,000,000, of which \$88,000,000, or one-tenth, went to the French colonies. Germany exported, in 1896, home merchandise to the value of \$700,000,000, of which \$2,000,000 worth, or one-three-hundredth and fiftieth part, went to the German colonies.

If we consider these figures for a moment, we shall perceive several curious facts. England exported to the British colonies goods to a value six times as great as that of the exports from France and Germany to their respective colonies; and she also imported from her colonies six times more goods than France and Germany put together imported from their colonies.—McClure's Magazine.

FOR THE BABIES.

There is no letter medicine for the babies than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Its pleasant taste and prompt and effectual cures make it a favorite with mothers and nurses alike. It quickly cures their coughs and colds, prevents pneumonia or other serious consequences. It also cures croup and has been used in tens of thousands of cases without a single failure so far as we have been able to learn. It not only cures croup, but when given soon as the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. In cases of whooping cough it eases the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, and lessens the severity and frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, thus depriving that disease of all dangerous consequences. For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

Provincial News.

GREENWOOD.

Greenwood's electric light plant, which is owned by a private company composed of local men, was given a test on Saturday evening with very satisfactory results. W. P. Dickson, of the Kootenay Electric Supply & Construction Company, Nelson, had charge of the construction work for the Greenwood company.

NELSON.

The last report from the quarantine at Beaver creek stated that the unlucky dozen were getting along nicely. The smallpox patient is recovering. None of the remaining men have developed the disease.

The city fathers on Monday night granted Freeman Alfred Jeffs, who was seriously injured a week or two ago during a brigade practice, the sum of \$150. The grant was made as an evidence of the city's appreciation of the department's services and as an expression of the principle that the men should not be losers if hurt in the performance of duty.

Miss Tamblin and Miss McDermid, who were injured in the hockey match at Rossland, are recovered. The former was rendered unconscious by the shock of a collision with another player, and Miss McDermid injured the ankle, which was hurt in practice a few nights previous to the match.

After Monday night's council meeting the board resumed as a board of health, Chairman Houston presiding. Aid. Hall suggested that a medical man meet every incoming boat and train to inspect passengers and require such to produce certificates of vaccination, or failing such to operate. The chairman and the remaining members of the board fell in with the idea readily and action was taken. The inspection of boats and trains will be continued for a month.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

William Roberts, an Indian, who was acquitted on Monday last by the Special Trials Court by His Honor Judge Bole on a charge of stealing \$220 from another Indian at Chilliwack in December last, appeared before Captain Pittendrigh, S.M., in the District Court on Tuesday on a charge of breaking jail at Steveston, the summer of 1898. He was remanded to stand trial at Chilliwack.

At a meeting of the City Council on Monday, the report of the light committee, recommending that Thomas Proctor be appointed city electrician, was taken into consideration. Mr. J. J. Healey be appointed engineer of the steam plant at the electric light station at a salary of \$90 per month, vice J. S. Grant, resigned; his appointment to date from the 19th inst.; that J. Parke be notified that, as three firemen are unemployed, his services will not be required after March 20th, was adopted. Mr. Thomas Proctor, the newly appointed city electrician, is a resident of Port William, Ontario, and is city electrician of that city at present.

The Presbytery of Westminister at its annual meeting on Monday night sustained and forwarded the call of the first church of Vancouver to Rev. Mr. MacBeth, of St. Augustine's, Winnipeg.

Mr. Law, of Port Hammond, who has been undergoing an operation in St. Luke's hospital, Vancouver, has sufficiently recovered to enable him to return home.

The wedding took place on Wednesday morning at the residence of the bride's parents on Ash street, New Westminister, of Mr. J. H. Diamond, assistant manager of the National Steamship Company at Vancouver, and Mrs. Ewins, eldest daughter of Mr. James Leamy, Dominion crown timber agent. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Morgan. James Farquhar, of Shoal Bay, acted as best man, while Miss Freese and Miss Blanche Millard attended the bride.

VANCOUVER.

The following are the officers of the newly-formed Shipmasters' Association for the current year: President, Captain Scott; vice-presidents, Captains Anderson, Cooper, Newcomb and Wilson; secretary and treasurer, Captain Moore; executive committee, Captains Bissett, Johnson, Gosse, Woodworth, Nicholls, J. P. Hamilton and Rush.

The sad death occurred on Monday evening of Miss Lizette McKean, nee Scott; vice-presidents, Captains Anderson, Cooper, Newcomb and Wilson; secretary and treasurer, Captain Moore; executive committee, Captains Bissett, Johnson, Gosse, Woodworth, Nicholls, J. P. Hamilton and Rush.

The Pacific Coast Steamship Co. yesterday sent their engineers \$10 a day each to go to work, but they refused. The crew worked, and an attempt to get the Seamen's Union at San Francisco to stop them failed.

A man drank a quart of gin on a bet and narrowly escaped death. He was unconscious twelve hours.

A pretty wedding took place in Christ church on Wednesday morning, the Rev. L. Norman Tucker officiating. The contracting parties were Mr. Alfred Henry Parkes and Miss Jessamine Freeman Gray, both of this city. Miss Gray was a very popular young lady in society and church circles, and Mr. Parkes is equally well known, being a member of the firm of Parkes Brothers, the painters.

It is intended to celebrate the relief of Ladysmith in Vancouver by a monster torchlight procession. This is to be held on the evening of the day on which the news is heard. On Wednesday an energetic committee to the matter up, and it was decided that this should be done, and to have one of the largest citizens' demonstrations ever seen in Vancouver. Colonel Worsnop has very kindly given his permission for the use of the battalion band, and it is proposed not to leave any feature unprepared, so that the procession will be a monster one.

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Wednesday. It was decided on the recommendation of the medical officer that the health inspector give seven days' notice to the

residents of Dupont street and the Chinese quarters throughout the city that they must be vaccinated. At the termination of that period the medical authorities will take steps to see that the order has been complied with. This step has been decided upon owing to the fact that nearly all epidemics that have visited the city first made their appearance in Chinatown.

NANAIMO NOTES.

(Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, Feb. 23.—Steamer Boscowitz arrived here last evening from Port Harvey with 500 tons of concentrates taken from the damaged barge Colorado. About 1,000 tons of concentrates remain on the barge, which can now be towed to its destination. The Boscowitz left for Tacoma with her cargo about 8 o'clock last evening.

A little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglass Mitchell, of Chase River, was severely burned yesterday. Mrs. Mitchell was playing with matches when her clothing caught fire.

Mayor Bate has decided to declare a civic holiday when definite news of the relief of Ladysmith is received.

JOHANNESBURG OF TO-DAY.

How the War has Affected "The Golden City"—Mines Are Still Being Worked.

In all the storm and stress of war the attention of the public is necessarily directed more particularly to the trend of events at the front rather than to what may be termed the material financial interests of the gold mining industry of the Witwatersrand.

Only a very few months ago all news from South Africa seemed to radiate from Johannesburg. Nowadays the city of gold is as silent as the grave. Nothing is heard from there in the public prints, and, judging by the lack of information, the place might be a city of the dead.

But this is by no means the case. Although Johannesburg is no longer in the forefront of politics, it is only dormant, and the few items of news that leak through are not without interest to those who have read of the mushroom gold-mining camp in its more flourishing days.

After the declaration of war, all strangers were warned to leave the city with the exception of those who received special permits to remain. These were issued to the number of

43,000 Residential Permits in the whole mining district, including Boksburg and Krugersdorp, which are about thirty miles apart. Of this total, only some 1,200 were granted to British citizens, and a list of them was published in the local Standard and Digges' News of October 12, 1899. Many of them have, however, since that date left the town either of their own free will or on a polite hint from that government that unless they did so their permits would be peremptorily rescinded.

A perusal of this list is instructive, although it would convey little to English readers. A general perusal thereof, however, suggests that a considerable proportion of the names are those of bank officials, and it is quite noteworthy that not one name appears of any financial or social importance. Indeed, some names are so aggressively Boer in character, such as du Plessis, du Preez, Goetze, Nande, Te Water and Marais, of whose country they may be loyal Cape Colonists, and, as such, they would be

None Too Leniently treated by the powers that be in Johannesburg.

Accounts which are fairly reliable state that the town, after a period of unrest and mitigated turmoil, has settled down to a state of comparative orderliness and peace. There has been little confusion, rioting, or disorder. At the same time "commandeering" in all its quaint forms has been rampant, and has been made the excuse for a good deal of looting. A commandeering officer has no hesitation in breaking open a shop and selecting the goods required by government according to a list supplied to him by the commission of peace and order. His usual procedure is to make some excuse to absent himself for half an hour, and to leave the door of the shop open. A crowd of loafers immediately flocks in, and looting proceeds merrily until his return, when he is contentedly blind to what has transpired in his absence. It is reported that Birch & Co., the big clothiers, have lost £22,000 worth of goods, including a very large quantity of little boys' sailor suits, which, one would surmise, would hardly be of use on the battlefield. Many other firms have lost heavily, including Gordon, Mitchell & Co., Covert & Co., Harvey, Greenacre & Co., Jolly & Atwood, Cherrington, Strachin and Bentfield.

Private property has not been any too respectfully respected, and many of the wealthier class have been occupied by the number of Boers.

Any Dutch family desiring to take up its abode in any particular private house finds no trouble in obtaining Commandant Schutte's permission to do so. Such well-known mansions as Hohenheim, Kva Lam, Swallow's Nest, The Deacons, Julius Teppe's house, Alderman Solomon's house, Geo. Goch manager's house, Klooflands, and the Robinson manager's house are all tenanted by dirty denizens of Veldschoendorp, which is the brickfields, or lowest quarter, of the town.

Price of all Household Commodities have risen enormously, although there is no immediate talk of a famine. Sugar is 55s. a bag; condensed milk, 50s. a case; fresh meat is 1s. 6d. a pound; fowls are 3s. 6d. each; and eggs 1s. 6d. a dozen. This last item is described as being a drug on the market.

The wives and families of the Rand burghers and police who are away fighting at the front were at first on full rations of 7lb. flour, 4lb. coffee, 1lb. sugar, 1lb. rice, one piece soap, two candles, and two boxes of matches per week. But these rations have now been cut down by one-half, so that one piece of soap has to last a large Boer family for a fortnight. It is reported that

Boer women are looting provision stores in the outer parts of the town in gangs of fifty to a hundred. This has already occurred at Rodepoort, Jeppestown, and even in the lower or Fordsburg end of Commissioner street.

Commandant Schutte, who is appointed governor of the town, has issued stringent orders that no natives are to be allowed to sell newspapers in the streets. With a view to the establishment of an army clothing factory, he called a general meeting of all master tailors, working tailors, cutters, trimmers, basters and other hands in the town.

The same worthy has been instrumental in assisting in the formation of a Relief Society

for the families of burghers killed or wounded in the execution of their duty. Mrs. Paul Kruger is the president thereof, and the committee includes Mrs. Landrost von Brandis, Mrs. Consul Biermann, Mrs. C. Schurmann, Mrs. C. Rolles, Mrs. Bruus, Mrs. L. Dierling, Mrs. Landrost Dietsch, Mrs. G. Hesse, Mrs. H. Michaels, Mrs. Jahn, and others. Subscriptions to the amount of nearly £700 have been announced.

The following proclamation has been issued by President Kruger: "Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the government of the South African Republic, that furniture and goods, in addition to other articles, have been found in the mines of the Republic in conflict with the mining regulations, therefore do I, Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, hereby proclaim and establish that all furniture and goods, as also other articles and stuffs found at the mines of the Republic in conflict with the mining regulations, shall be confiscated for the benefit of the State, and shall be sold by public auction, and the proceeds thereof shall be paid to the government of the Republic."

Under the general supervision of Mr. F. C. Osterloo, late manager of the May Consolidated Gold Mining Company, some of the highest class producing gold mines are being run for the benefit of the government. The Robinson, the Bonanza, and the Ferreira are all under direct government control, and the Villare Main Reef, the Worcester, and the Pioneer by the company's officials under government supervision. The Rose Deep, the South Randfontein, the Jumpers Deep, and the Crown Reef are also running.

The monthly output of this well-known group of mines is not stated, but it is understood that the gold won is commandeered by government.

Conveyed to the Mint at Pretoria, and there coined into "Oom Paul's" or Transvaal sovereigns. Government is supposed to give each mining company an indemnity for the gold used, with a view to compensation on an equitable basis after the war is over. There is much promise in this suggestion.

Of course the mines are not being worked up to their full output power, indeed it is doubtful whether chlorination is being employed at all; it is thought that the old-time rough and ready extraction over the plates is all that is put into operation. If that is the case, the value of the tailings heaps will be a considerable asset to the shareholders in the future. Whatever may happen in Johannesburg, even if the machinery, headgear, and batteries be destroyed, the energy cannot do away with the richest gold reef in the world.—London Daily Mail.

THE OUTPOST.

On lonely outpost duty stands a Soldier of the Queen.

As sadly falls the weeping night, o'er the hillside scene.

That pictures battle's wrath unchained, where dead and dying lay.

Where fell the gallant heroes in the charge that won the day.

He stands amid the boulders strewn upon the kopje's side.

A silhouette against the gloom where trailing shadows glide;